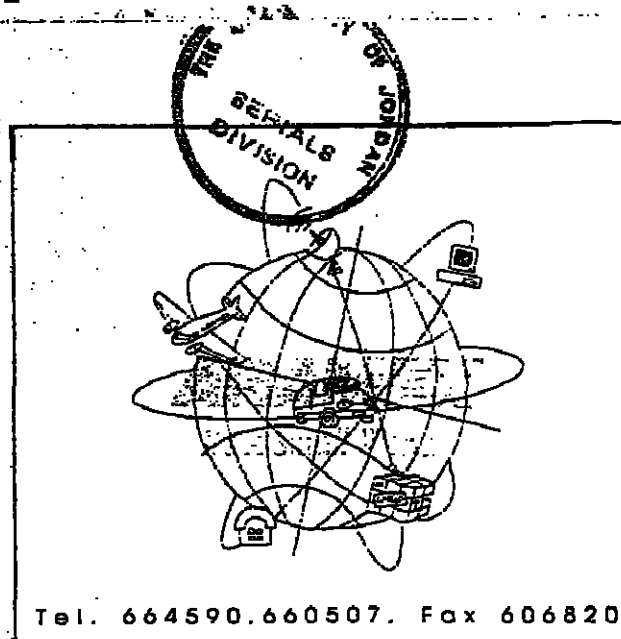


The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



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House passes budget in a deal struck with Government

By Ahmed Shaker
Special to The Star

AFTER A tense week of debate, the Lower House passed the Government's budget draft law of JD 1,672 million for 1995. The adoption was followed by a pledge made by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to meet a number of demands presented by many MPs concerning the improvement of services in their respective constituencies. Parliamentary source said the deal struck between the Government and Parliament was based on the understanding that the draft law would be passed as it stands. The Government in turn promised to supplement the draft law in February 1995 covering more than 60 recommendations already adopted by the House Financial Committee looking into the pay of civil servants, veterans and pensioners; extending health care services to include most workers and employees; and undertaking immediate measures to curb unemployment and poverty. The supplement will involve an estimated cost of JD 100 million, and is expected to be funded through soft local loans and from the Government's tax

earnings which are anticipated to reach JD 40 million more than presently estimated, especially as the Government is undergoing a number of financial, tax and custom regulations. However, the Prime Minister cautioned against what he termed as unrealistic hopes during the peace area. But the official media and frequent statements of governmental officials are responsible for this. Nevertheless, any improvement in the life ordinary citizen will be the result of increasing investment and of implementing projects on the national and regional levels. The deputies raised many issues which the Government promised to pay attention to. Among other things, the deputies urged the need to stabilize prices, especially



foodstuff prices, which have frequently been rising, to closely link income and increments with living costs and to preserve the country's foreign reserves. The Government also promised to reduce its expenditures and increase its due earnings from the people. However, the government agreed to:

1. To reschedule more than \$2.1 billion in loans under soft conditions for the next 20-30 years.
2. That some \$830 million of the Kingdom's foreign debt is cancelled.
3. That some \$300 million has been obtained in the form of aid and assistance.
4. That custom duties are reduced on many commodities and transport vans which alleviate the cost of living.
5. That salaries of civil servants, the military and pensioners have increased since 1 July, 1994.
6. That most raw materials related to food industries and agricultural requirements are sale tax exempt.
7. That farmers' loan interests, worth of JD 11 million are cancelled.
8. That the capital of the Agricultural Lending Corp. has been raised by JD7 million, to a total of JD24 million.
9. That an education profession allowance of 25 percent be added to the teacher's basic salary. This will cost the Government an extra JD14 million annually.
10. Salaries of veterinarians, agricultural engineers and nurses will increase.
11. The capital of Royal Jordanian increased to JD 70 million and its internal debt rescheduled for the next 10 years.
12. That agreement has been reached to provide the necessary finances for the housing funds of the military and teachers totalling JD 90 million.
13. That the situation in all stumbling companies has been reviewed and necessary measures have been taken to set them right.
14. That the goods of national reforms for 1993 and 1994 have been accomplished.

Diseased meat shipment still under investigation

By Jihad H. Shraideh
Star Staff Writer

WHATEVER THE case imported meat will continue to be part of our stable diet. Problems may arise regarding its quality, but by no means should we stop granting licenses to its importers. And what are the basis which the Ministry of Agriculture depend on to stop importing from a country and open the door for another?

Few days ago the Veterinary Dept. of the Ministry of Agriculture received information saying the last cargo of imported, four thousand Romanian calves were infected with Bovine TB, according to Dr. Mokheles Ammareen. But the bill of lading for the cargo states they



are in healthy condition. Dr. Ammareen told The Star that the Veterinary Department, promptly reacted.

It was too late to stop the shipment, though, censored upon its arrival in the country. The Veterinary Department

now holds all the calves in quarantine, thoroughly examining each head at the Amman Slaughterhouse. A full report will be issued within one week. The infected will be destroyed immediately. The one-week period is fine as far as livestock and frozen meat is concerned. But the danger lies in imported fresh and chilled meat. According to the regulations of the Ministry of Health, meat has to be delivered in the country within 48 hours since the date of slaughtering. Otherwise it will not be allowed to get in the

country. It is well-known that this kind of meat is transferred directly from the caraplane to the Amman Slaughterhouse, and be distributed from there. So, the results of any inspection will not appear before 4 or 5 days, which means that the disease will be known after the consumers have already eaten and digested the meat, if they are lucky enough not to be taken in hospital. It means also, the results which the Amman Slaughterhouse get are unimportant for observing the health control over imported fresh and chilled meat, a source who refused to be identified said.

Continued on page 2

Chechens' steely resolve haunts Russian invaders

By Ken Fireman

GROZNY—Azn Shaipova has seen it happen before. Half a century ago, when Shaipova was a 12-year-old girl, she and her Chechen family were rounded from their beds in the middle of the night by Soviet Army troops, herded into railway cattle cars and shipped off to a brutal 13-year exile in central Asia.

On Thursday, Shaipova, now a careworn 62-year-old pensioner, stood in the central square of this besieged Chechen capital and listened somberly to the sounds of artillery fire on the northern outskirts of the city, where a Russian invasion force was battling Chechen fighters resisting their advance.

"What did we do to deserve this?" she said. "Look at our homes. There are no windows, no doors. Everything has been bombed. My son is off fighting somewhere. He has three daughters, and we are afraid to leave them in the city. We brought them away to a village. We didn't do anything... and now they bomb and attack us."

To the Russian leaders who ordered the army into Chechnya one week ago, the resort to military measures was a justifiable effort to re-assess Russian sovereignty and restore lawful order in a region that Moscow claims has become a haven for violent criminal gangs. But to



Shaipova and thousands of other Chechens, it is a case of an old historical tragedy repeating itself.

And in the vast gulf that exists between those differing perceptions lies Moscow's fundamental problem here. For while Russia almost certainly has the military power to occupy this city of 400,000 and install a more compliant regime to rule Chechnya, it would do so at the price of even further alienating a population that already regards Russians as foreign invaders. Russia has a wide access to weapons and very long

memories.

The result is that while Russia could win an initial military victory, it would be likely to face months or years of grinding low-intensity conflict with armed groups of Chechen fighters who have vowed to carry on guerrilla-style operations against the Russians from the rugged mountain regions that dot the landscape here.

The Russians may also find that they have triggered a wider regional conflict that will be even harder to contain. Chechnya lies at the heart of the Northern Caucasus, a volatile region populated

by a wide variety of non-Slavic ethnic groups whose mistrust of each other is exceeded only by their long standing dislike for the Russian overlords. Part of the region has been under a state of emergency for two years because of a violent conflict between two such groups—Ossetians and Ingushis—hat erupted in November 1992.

Already, the Russian push into Chechnya has triggered new tensions in the region. As one Russian armored column moved eastward through Ingushetia last week on its way to Chechnya, it was harassed by angry villagers who attempted to block its progress, only to be dispersed by Russian gunfire.

In an angry speech to the upper house of the Russian parliament on Friday, the president of Ingushetia, Ruslan Aushev, said the Russian leadership seemed to be virtually oblivious to the broader consequences of its actions.

A lack of foresight on the part of those who ordered the army into action may help to explain the obvious lack of enthusiasm for the operation on the part of the Russian military. Russian soldiers interviewed last week, all of whom spoke on condition of anonymity, expressed confusion about their mission and reluctance to be part of it. "Who needs a war?" said one young soldier as he

perched atop an armored personnel carrier pulling on a cigarette and trying to stay warm in the deepening late afternoon chill. "What's the point of it?"

This lack of enthusiasm reached its peak on Friday when the commander of the column in western Chechnya, Maj. Gen. Ivan Babichev, told a group of Chechen civilians blocking his troops that he would halt his advance rather than fire on unarmed people.

On the other side of the front lines, the Chechens who have rallied to defend President Dzhokhar Dudayev's separatist regime are short on hardware but very long on morale. Their arms range from modern assault rifles and grenade launchers to shotguns and home-made Molotov cocktails, but virtually no artillery or aircraft. Yet their fighting spirit seems strong.

Chechens speak repeatedly about the conflict as a blood feud against the Russian invaders that will be passed on from generation to generation for decades to come.

"They can kill us now, but in 100 years our descendants will still be fighting them," said Ramzan Idigov, 32, a Chechen fighter from the village of Sernovodsk.

It would be easy to dismiss such talk as empty bravado, staged for the benefit of a visitor, that will melt away quickly in the face of the withering fire-power that a modern army can bring to bear. But many Chechens, fighters and civilians alike, say that would be a serious misreading of Chechen psychology—especially in light of their people's tragic history.

Shaipova recalls the precise date when that history changed her life: Feb. 23, 1944. "I was just taken away in a night-gown," she said. "They wouldn't even let us change our clothes. They threw us into the train cars and locked the doors. When the old people started dying, they opened the doors and threw their bodies out."

It was World War II, and Soviet leader Josef Stalin feared that the Chechens—an ethnic group of non-Slavic Muslims who had resisted Russian rule for two centuries—might prove unreliable if the invading German armies penetrated into this region. So he deported the entire Chechen population of 800,000 to Kazakhstan. Historians estimate that as much as one-third of that population died during the long journey into exile.

Happy New Year!

The Star

..extends its warmest wishes to its readers on the occasion of the new year. The Star will not appear next Thursday, the next issue will appear on Thursday 12 January 1995. See you next year!!



Students demonstrate against university administration

Negligence is blamed for death of college student

By Raed Al Abed
Special to The Star

THE DEATH of Rashid Ahmad Yousif, a student at the Amman University College for Applied Sciences (AUCAS), last week, introduced more fundamental issues on campuses, protection and welfare. AUCAS has 2500 students, and it is to their welfare that we are now concerned with, especially in the light of the cool reception of the AUCAS administration. The head of the university has refused to comment on the death which was directly caused by negligence and irresponsibility. The girder of the handball playground was not fixed on the ground. All it needed was a handful of screws at a cost of half a dinar. The estimated 200 Kilo grams girder fell on Rashid's head and killed him.

Witnesses told The Star that "the student bled for 30 minutes, simply because there was nobody to take him to hospital." They added the "university has a surgery but it is often closed, the assigned doctor attending only two hours a week on Mondays." Some students said they have never seen a doctor around.

Some teachers refused to help the dying student and one of them even refused take him to hospital as evidenced by 40 students.

The Star witnessed a trail of blood from the student, from the playground to the university car park, who eventually died from bleeding. Members of the Students Association provided a full account of what happened but refused to identify themselves, lest they faced disciplinary action.

The association put the responsibility directly on the administration. Its members called for the resignation of the dean of the college and the dean of students affairs. The Association argued that it was the deans responsibility to afford the security and safety of the students. They also

Continued on page 2

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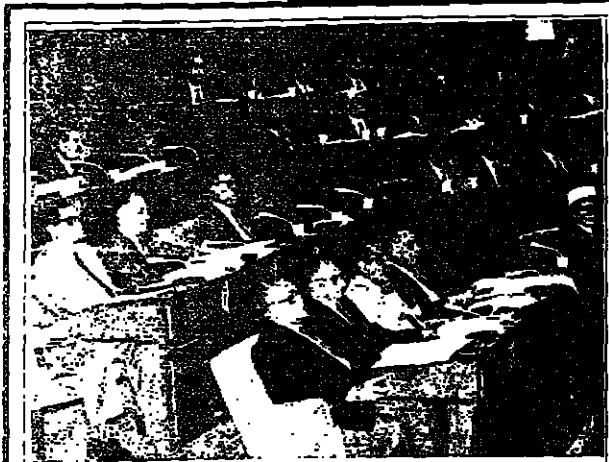
May God grant your Majesty and the Arab
and Islamic nations further prosperity
and success in the years to come.

LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Dr Marwan Al Asmar



Reshuffle in the offing?

A Government reshuffle now seems likely as Crown Prince Hassan and Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker visited the Prime Ministry last week. Prime Minister Majali has been meeting with a number of deputies and senators to discuss their possible participation in the new Government. Names from the Lower House include: Abdel Kareem Al Kabarti, Abdel Al Majeed Azzam, Abdel Al Majeed Al Aqash, Ali Abu Raghib, Mohammed Al Thwayyib, Awad Khleifat and Abdallah Nassor. Possible names from the Senate are: Qassem Obiedat, Jawdat Sabool and Dr Khalid Al Zuabi. Some ministers will keep their post in the new Government: Abdel Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Sami Gammo, Hisham Al Dabas and Samir Quawar.

No to normalization

The now expanded 11-party coalition that opposes the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty has warned against "normalization activities" between the two countries. In a communiqué, and without mentioning any names, it condemns all those who participate in such activities and calls upon them to cease immediately. At a guess, one would mention the tourism sector. The communiqué said that "normalization policies will not be successful in Jordan." But one may dispute that arguing that normalization could very well sail through since the vast majority of the people are not showing any sign of opposition. Normalization nowadays, is left to be argued in the smoke-filled rooms of the intellect or is that so?

Water pumping

Are we seeing the first fruits of peace? For the past two months Israel has pumped four million cubic meters of water into Jordan. Jordanian and Israeli delegations have agreed that Israel would pump 30,000 cubic metres daily from the Yarmouk River to the King Abdullah Canal. Sources in the Water Authority said that Israel will pump five million cubic metres to Jordan in the summer and 12 million in the winter. Jordan's share in the Yarmouk River is estimated at 100 million cubic metres. Jordan, it seems, will also be getting 25 million cubic metres of treated water from Lake Tiberias.

The City of Peace

One of the many projects

that are planned in this new wonderful era of economic revival is the City of Peace. Proposed by a Thai magnet, it is still in the discussion stage. Dr Witna has already met the Minister of Tourism Dr Mohammad Al Adwan who is excited about the project and what it would mean for the Jordan Valley. The location for the City of Peace has not been decided, but what is known is that this will be a huge project, conservatively estimated to cost \$150 million. The project will create 3000 job opportunities.

Imports from OT stopped

According to Al Bilad the Government has stopped all imports from the self-rule areas. It has also cancelled any export permit it has previously issued to individuals or companies. The decision was executed last month when a cargo of Palestinian products was prevented from entering the country. The Government action was taken on the advice of the Ministry of Trade and Industry after trade and customs negotiations between the Jordanians and PNA officials reached deadlock. The Palestinians would not yet approve the customs clauses of the yet unsigned economic agreement of last year.

Al Orooba, a bit late

Not content with bombarding the Jordanian public with newspapers, we will have yet another weekly on the newsstands. Its publisher, Sultan Hattab, a veteran journalist and the first to be interviewed by Israeli television during the Madrid peace conference, said Al Orooba will aim to provide "a deeper and truthful analysis." This statement may raise an eyebrow. Is Mr Hattab implying that the dailies and weeklies aren't providing truthful analysis of the political, social and economic scene. Mr Hattab is not convinced. He says that Al Orooba will also publish a plurality of political views and writings from Arab States. Commenting on the name of the newspaper a number of people told The Star that Mr Hattab is totally out of touch. "While the world is

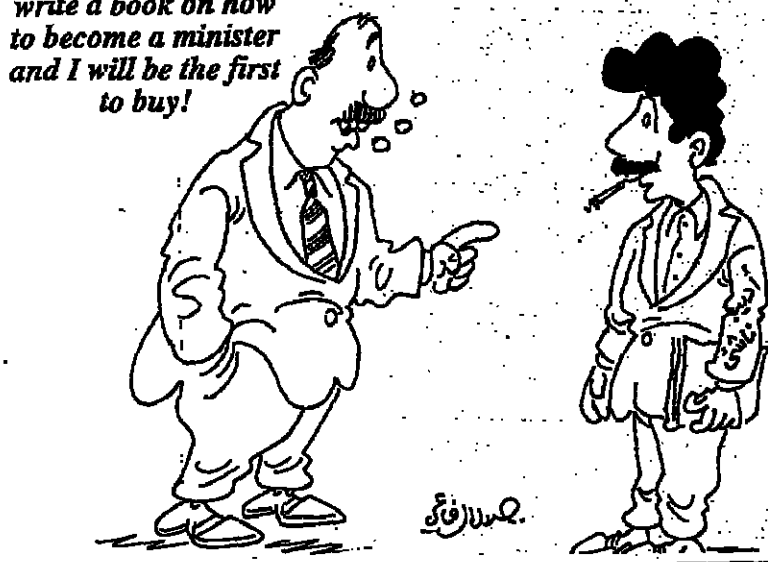


Hattab

Skeletons for export

While the Israeli theory of transferring the Palestinians across the river may have been halted, it seems that a new theory has taken its place: the export of Palestinian skeletons to the US. So big the issue has become, that an Arab Israeli Knesset member Mr Taleb Al Sanie, called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to set up a committee to investigate. Mr Al Sanie discovered that the Israeli Antiquities Authority (IAA) is exporting hundreds of human skeletons of Palestinians to American universities for the purpose of academic research. The last shipment was made in 1991 and contained 80 skeletons taken from the Islamic cemetery in Qaisara. The head of the IAA, Mr Amir Drouri said "this issue should not be of concern to Muslims because the Islamic religion stresses that human bones are of no use after forty years." But surely this is a gross violation of the dead. Al Sanie said sarcastically "I didn't know that Al Drouri has become an expert on Islam." He added that "his statement ridicules our feelings: a racist remark not only against our dead but our people."

Take my advice... write a book on how to become a minister and I will be the first to buy!



moving in one direction, he is moving in another, refusing to believe that the heyday of Arabism is long gone."

A Saudi wanted

The government asked the US to extradite a Saudi Arabian citizen, Mohammed Jamal Khalifa, who has been convicted in the Afghan case trial. The Jordanian State Security Court passed a death sentence on Mohammed Khalifa last Wednesday, and on 10 others for planting explosives in cinema houses. Official sources said that talks with US officials are underway about the possibility of extraditing Khalifa, although there is no criminal exchange agreement between Jordan and the US.

Jordanian prisoners in Egypt

Jordanian prisoners held in Egypt have appealed to the Government to pressure the Egyptian authorities into releasing them. The prisoners, numbering 30, said they would be willing to serve the rest of their sentences in Jordanian jails. Some of these prisoners are serving life sentences, while others have served four years in administrative detention. It is understood that direct Government intervention would result in their release as happened with other foreign prisoners when their governments intervened.



A towering inferno

Only within weeks of a towering inferno, another huge fire engulfed a shoe store in Jabal Al Hussein. No casualties were reported but extensive damages were incurred since it took the Civil Defence Department (CDD) one and a half hours to put the fire under control. A committee has been formed to investigate the causes of the fire but it is thought that the Andalusia Store lacked the proper fire safety requirements. The owner, Mr Aziz Jowdeh said the fire which caused heavy financial losses in burnt footwear, was probably started through an electrical fault. He added that a worker who was in the store just ran away failing to perform any preliminary fire extinguishing procedures.

Diseased meat shipment under investigation

Continued from page 1

But this cargo has now created problems of credibility. Dr Amman says, "if the Bovine TB prove positive, the credibility of the Romanian certificates will be suspect."

But this raises another question about the credibility of Jordanian importers. It is argued that they are equally to blame for using what is being termed as the "under table business."

This also raises a number of questions about the methods of obtaining certificates. Surely

such methods need to be kept under close investigations.

However, the importers are not the only ones to blame either. Such a problem relates to the Ministry of Agriculture, which authorized to decide the number of export countries and import merchants.

These countries have at time manipulated the market and increased the prices of meat. This forces merchants to import less quality meat to make it worth their interest while they follow the prices put forward by the Ministry of supply, a source said.

Negligence is blamed for death of college student

Continued from page 1

called for a full investigation. Witnesses told The Star that this is not the first accident. "A few months ago the same girder fell on a student's hands and almost cut them off". In a yet another accident the whole board of the basketball ring fell on the head of one of the students.

All 2500 students of AU-CAS submitted a petition to the Minister of Higher Education.

Dr Rattib Al Soud, demanding that he redress their grievances, accusing the university administration of "gross carelessness".

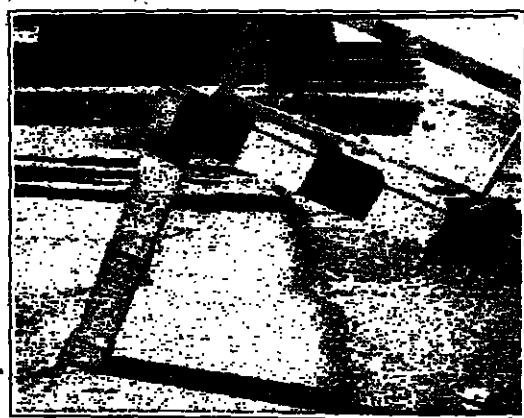
"It is a tragedy, we roamed the campus to try find somebody to help our colleague but everybody was busy," a student told The Star.

Eventually the deceased student was taken to the Marka Housing Health Center but they just didn't have the equipment. So he was taken, bleed

ing, to the Zerqa Hospital where he died on arrival.

"We are paying seven dinars every semester for health insurance, but we get nothing," a member of the Students Association told The Star, "the university administration imposes a lot of obstacles on us, but we demand our rights, not just empty promises," he added.

Dr Al Soud told Jordan Television after the accident that



he "was sorry about the death of the student" confirming that the Ministry will "reconsider public safety issues in universities and colleges."

The Star later learnt that the Ministry is investigating the incident and the results will be announced later this week.

A student ironically said "they always try to act after accidents. If they had acted earlier, especially on issues of safety, this tragedy would never have happened."

"What are we going to say to his family who sent him to have his education but he is gone forever, I want all the officials of our school and the Government to put themselves in their shoes" another member of the association told The Star.

The AUCAS has more than 13 working factories with heavy machinery and high voltage electricity. Unfortunately they do not even have the simplest of first aid.



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People & Politics



Putting democracy to work

It was like watching an old movie, a rerun with a typical ending. The debate of the state budget put most of us to sleep. The same dull decor, the same pale faces and the same harangue. The Government appeared to be under fire, deputies were criticizing and sermonizing, but in the end the Prime Minister and his Finance Minister rescued the ship and put their house in order. Another battle was won. A flood of promises thrown at the deputies in paragonizing speeches and that's that. The budget was put to the vote and it passed with flying colors. The Government is saved, long live the Government!

Really, we are embarrassed by the fact that all our predictions of an imminent free fall for the Majali Government turn out to be false and unfounded. This Government is so invincible that nothing, it seems, can shake its foundations. Democracy, with a Jordanian flavor, again proves that Governments enjoy a rare immunity against Parliamentary niceties. So predictable has our political agenda become that it is no longer from page news when the Government survives crucial tests like the budget, peace with Israel and others.

Dr Majali owes his survival to two things: personal stamina, which is a remarkable thing in itself, and the fact that democracy has been his greatest ally. It is shocking, but true. Before democracy, no Government would have survived the roller coaster ride that Dr Majali's Government has been taken since it was first incorporated. If word got out that Amman's water supply was contaminated, heads would roll and the political establishment would fall out of favor. It is true that before democracy criticism was limited and the boundaries of public freedom were limited. But the little criticism that was allowed was enough to put the Government on guard.

The age of democracy has changed things. Criticism, too much of it in fact, has created a sort of immunity both at official and public levels. So what if mothers' milk turned out to contain high levels of contamination, and who really cares about the ramifications of the Audit Bureau report about corruption in public departments... or the fact that elected deputies are beaten in public.

Democracy has given birth to a lame duck Parliament. Well, it is not democracy to blame, but the way our politicians managed to manipulate it to their favor.

So the cost of living is going up, the stock market is going down, the economy in general is lethargic and we're getting used to the sight of Israeli tourists eating falafel sandwiches in downtown Amman. Democracy has made possible what would have been inconceivable before. One wonders if democracy was the good thing we all thought it was.

Parliament: The 80-member Cabinet!

It's the season again for Government reshuffles. The Prime Minister is rumored to have started consultations to form a new Government. Some make a connection between the budget vote and the selection process. One rumor has it that deputy Ali Abu Ragheb, head of the House Financial Committee, is to be recruited by Dr Majali. If this turns to be true then the premier could very well earn the title of Majali the Conqueror. Deputies who are against this Government somehow end up as ministers in it. It happened with deputy Abdel Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, now deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education. The essence of five years of democratic experience is this: The lure of the Cabinet is much stronger than the lure of the Dome. Ironically, all prime ministers since democracy was introduced in 1989 recruited deputies with the exception of Dr Majali himself. His first Cabinet was deputy free, which brought him under fire from deputies craving for a ministerial post. In fact, many deputies made it clear that their prime interest in running for Parliament in the first place was to end up in Government! Dr Majali changed his policy and allowed some deputies into his second Government. But he could not satisfy all deputies and he still was under attack from those who believed he should have hired them.

Now, Dr Majali is bent on making another reshuffle. Some expect it sooner than later. Others are still betting he will go away and believe the time is ripe for a major change in Government from head to toe.

Regardless of what the coming days and weeks will bring, whoever is in control of Government will face the same dilemma: Who to recruit from the Lower House. One solution, attributed oddly to Dr Majali himself, is to form an 80-member Cabinet making all deputies happy and guaranteeing a Government that can last forever.

Obaidat: Joining the opposition

Former Prime Minister and Senator Mr Ahmad Obaidat just wouldn't let go. He was interviewed by *Al Majd* this week and you could hear the fireworks miles away! None of the three branches of government has escaped his criticism. The interview was also revealing since Mr Obaidat confirmed that he was asked to resign, by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, and that this was the second time that he was called on to relinquish his Senate seat.

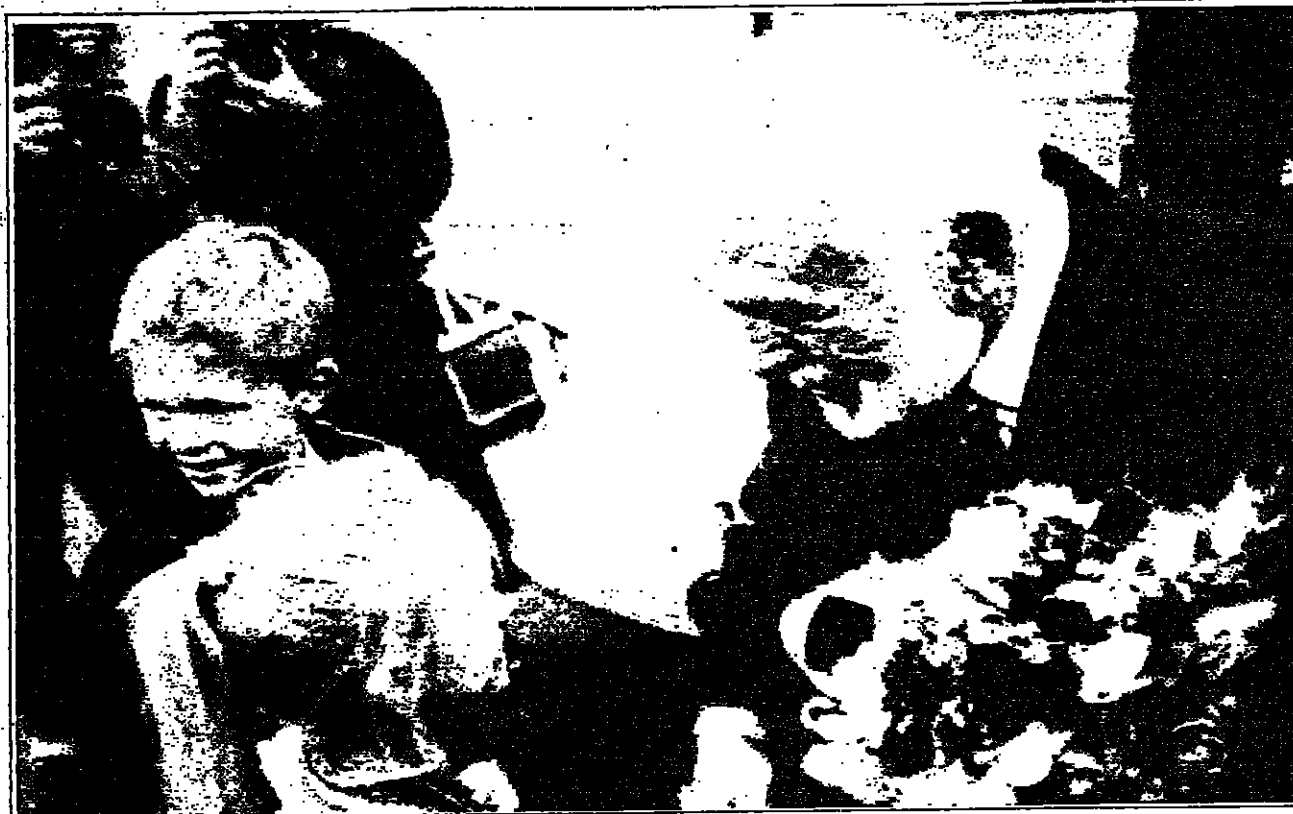
Mr Obaidat in his interview was both open and blunt. He reiterated his opposition to the peace treaty and hinted at a campaign to politicize the judiciary and intimidate the legislature and the opposition. Mr Obaidat's appetite to talk to the press, *Al Sabeel* claims it interviewed Mr Obaidat and will publish the text next week, could indicate that he is not going to be marginalized with the opposition if these parties improve and modernize their programs. Does this mean we can count Mr Obaidat among the opposition from now on?



Majali



Obaidat



A little girl offers His Majesty King Hussein a bouquet of flowers upon his arrival in the city of Graz in Austria Tuesday. The King is on a several day visit to Austria where he is expected to undergo check ups for an ear infection. The Austrian News Agency earlier reported that the King was due for an operation to correct an ear problem.

Nasser

'Normalization with Israel is a form of interference in our internal issues'

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr Kamal Nasser is the President of the Lawyers Association. He is also the President of the Freedom Committee of the Arab Lawyers Union. An international human rights activist, Dr Nasser is presently fighting for the modernization of legislations to suit the profound world developments. He holds a doctorate in law from the University of Damascus. He talked to *The Star's* Raed Al Abed on current issues.

Since you oppose the peace treaty with Israel, how are you going to deal with the new era of peace?

The most dangerous [part of the peace treaty with Israel] is that it was ratified by Parliament, and it is already a law. It even has priority over other legislations. We believe Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries were subjected to political and economic pressures, an American-Israeli domination, in an atmosphere characterized by Arab divisions. However, such treaties are void under international norms because they are nonequivalent. The subject of nonequivalent treaties was discussed in the Vienna Convention of 1969, where there was a proposal from the developing countries to introduce an article which considers a treaty that is signed under political or economic pressure as "void." But this suggestion was strongly rejected by the European countries and the United States and the compromise was to replace the word "pressure" with "coercion."

We consider the circumstances under which the treaty [with Israel] was signed abnormal and therefore, we as a popular organization and an association, do not approve of it.

We believe Israel to be dangerous for the Arab nation, even if it changes its style—Israel will not retract its strategy to build a greater Israel. Now we have two projects before us: first, the Arab renaissance project, which we support, and second, the American-Israeli project, which we will resist. We as a Lawyers Association should encourage the Arab renaissance project and defeat the American-Israeli project.

Since normalization will adversely affect our national economy, the nation's identity and culture, we will stand against it. Normalization with Israel is a form of interference in our internal issues.

All professional associations [in Jordan] have formed committees to resist normalization with Israel, and we have a central committee against normalization. These associations warned their members against normalization and building relations with Israel.

Our duty is to enlighten Jordanians against the dangers of normalization, and provide facts to draw an actual picture. After all, normalization is an Israeli goal not an Arab one.

At the same time, being against the treaty, does not mean that we are against the Government. The Government has its facts and circumstances and its hands are bound by international regulations, but these [regulations] do not apply to us because we are the



Nasser: Judges should be independent

masses.

But together we [masses and Government] share a common goal which is to safeguard national security and the interests of the nation. Our differences are healthy.

But we are part of the Arab nation, parts of which are blockaded like Iraq and Libya. Our nation today is intellectually, economically and politically blockaded. How then can we make peace with those who enforce these blockades?

We are for peace, but are against submission and surrender, and the imposition of domination and force.

If a member of your association establishes contact with Israel, are you going to dismiss him? If so wouldn't your move violate the peace treaty law?

The council of the association issued a circular, warning colleagues against normalization and holding them responsible. The council is willing to enforce its warning against violators. If any member makes contact with Israel or establishes relations with Israelis, then we will not hesitate to implement the internal code and put him before a disciplinary council.

Don't you think these regulations are against the peace treaty law?

No, I don't see a conflict, because the association's law deals with issues which the peace treaty law does address. The association has its own law which regulates the legal profession and controls relations between its members.

In our opinion, normalization [with Israel] is dangerous to both our members and profession and we have the right to deflect this threat.

The peace treaty law had put an end to the state of war between two states, but it has no right to interfere in our internal affairs and our institutions. In other words it has no right to interfere in professional organizations' affairs.

Besides, this treaty is non-equivalent and void as I stated.

Some say there has been a retreat in the democratic process since the treaty was signed. What do you say?

The backbone of democracy is the separation of authorities. Recently, we have noticed that the executive authority is dominating other branches of government and this has a profound effect on democracy.

The second point has to do with our democratic practices, understanding and behavior. Apparently a democratic system exists—we have the legislative, executive and judicial branches. But can we assume that what we have is true democracy? Are the freedoms of expression and opinion permitted to all? It is true that the rule of law must be implemented in a democracy, we as lawyers strongly support that, but within a framework that consists of the respect of human rights and public freedoms in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. Even the Constitution has loopholes and we should face this fact. When the Constitution talks about respect of human rights and public freedoms it says these freedoms are preserved except in circumstances prescribed by law. Today we have the press and penal laws among others, which limit the performance of democracy. There is situation of suffocation which is a result of the general political situation.

We can't be faulted for saying "no" to the policy of the Government, because it is not always correct to say "yes". Positive opposition actually serves the Government and the country more than do hypocrites.

Those who said "no" to the treaty are now described as working against the state. That is why the independence of the judiciary from the domination of Government is the most important backbone of democracy. Jordan has a great interest in the implementation and deepening of democracy.

As an association what have you done to preserve human rights and uphold the Constitution?

As president of the Lawyers Association and as president of the Freedom Committee in the Arab World of the Arab Lawyers Union, we have intervened with the Jordanian authorities in cases of unlawful detentions. Also we have formed committees to observe regulations during trials and we assigned defence committees.

In the association we have a freedom committee which is also part of the central freedom committee of the professional associations. We believe there is a necessity to amend legislations so that they become compatible with international human rights conventions.

We believe the afflictions of the nation stem from its ignorance of democracy. We also believe the nation will not rise again unless it can rely on a free citizen who enjoys his complete rights and freedom.

What is happening on the judicial front in Jordan with the recent resignations and appointments?

I do not want to interfere in what is going on, but I will say this: We in the association stand by the judicial branch because we believe its independence and efficiency will safeguard citizens and democracy. Any interference in its affairs will be strongly rejected by us.

Our judicial authority has proved its ability to say the word of truth even in the very hard times. It has also proved that it is better than other judicial authorities in the Arab world. But judges need stability because they do not belong to one certain party. I am against extending the authority of the Minister of Justice over the judiciary and any interference by him in their affairs.

Judges should feel that no one can pressure them, and they should be independent.

Arrest and detention in the Occupied Territories haunts Palestinians

By E. Yaghi
Special to The Star

THOUGH PEACE is almost a tangible entity, tension within the Occupied Territories is not a thing of the past. What does peace mean to someone who has been detained and interrogated by the Israeli Intelligence? What is it like to be a Palestinian prisoner in a place like Purgatory? The Occupation has affected every family within the Occupied Territories, for what family has not experienced the anxiety of having at least one of its members in an Israeli prison?

There are two courts operating within the Occupied Territories: the civil courts dealing with civil cases of which the military government has nothing at stake and the military courts which deal with everything which falls under the arbitrary term of "security." In areas under Israeli military occupation, every soldier has the right to detain any person when the soldier feels that there is grounds for suspicion and that the person in question has committed an offense. This ambiguous description means that just about anybody can be held in custody.

A detainee can be held up to six months without being brought to trial. The access of the client to obtain a lawyer can be postponed indefinitely, sometimes throughout the client's detention. Usually, when a lawyer does gain access to his client, it is only after he has broken down and confessed or when interrogation has been abandoned. Interrogation has one main goal and that is to extract a confession. In order to achieve this objective, the prisoner is subjected to isolation, torture and humiliating physical conditions.

The detainee initially undergoes a period of starvation, sleep deprivation and prolonged periods of standing with hands cuffed and head covered with a sack. A typical case is the story of a young man who calls himself Abu Khaled. When he was 17 years old, he was awakened in the middle of the night by an Israeli army patrol bursting into his small home where he lived with his parents, two brothers and four sisters in a refugee camp in the West Bank. Israelis had been informed that he was a member of a guerrilla group. At once they began to break everything in the house and then began to beat Abu Khaled's mother, brothers and sisters. Abu Khaled was bound, hands behind his back, blindfolded and then thrown "into" the back of a truck while his family protested and screamed for the soldiers to release him.

As the truck drove him to the police station, two soldiers held him down while a third pressed the barrel of an M16 in his back. When he arrived at the police station, the blindfold remained while soldiers beat him from every direction. Later he was tossed in a jeep where he was bound in a "banana tie" which is method of tying the hands and feet together.

Abu Khaled was taken to a temporary prison camp where separated from the rest of the world, a foul smelling hood was placed over his head and for three days, in the scorching heat of summer, he was forced to squat. He could move neither to the right or left. He was given water to drink just once a day and was continually hit along with other prisoners and even had human waste thrown on him. Finally he

Continued on page 5



ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES

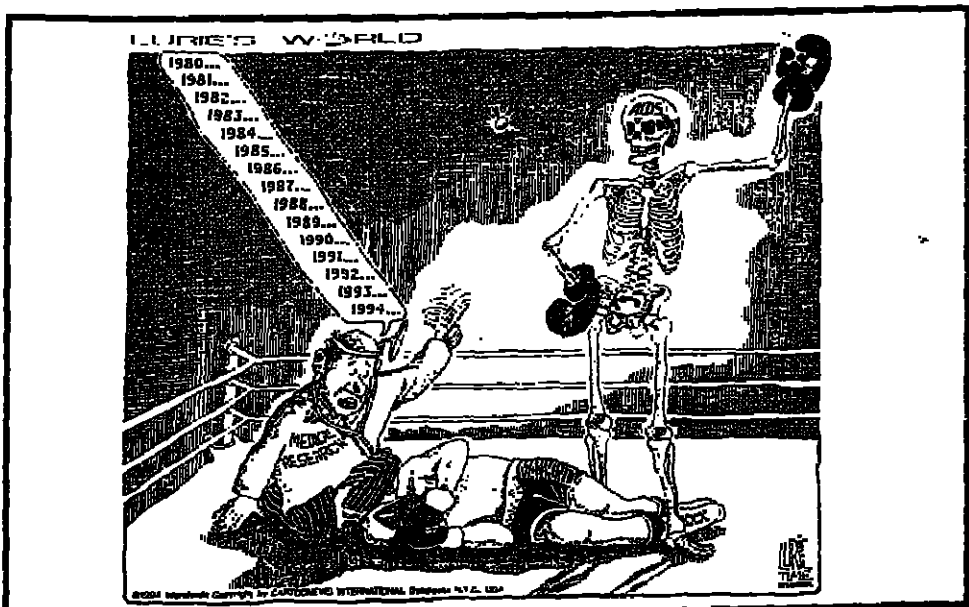
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Our Say...

Thoughts for the New Year

NINETEEN NINETY four will be marked in history as the year of peace between Jordan and Israel. For confirmed believers as well as skeptics, the peace dividends must materialize to mean something more than just the opening of embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv. For some, the idea of peace means co-existence, while for others it means co-operation, while in reality they must go together. The barriers of war are evidently gone, and what remains is to plan soberly our regional role in this era. We should not hide behind the veil of being economically invaded by superior products from Israel, when we all know that Israel's trade markets are not in the region, but rather, what Israel needs is investment, and so do we. How are we to deal with this new circumstance? Shall we hide in our shell or proceed with confidence into a business-like partnership?

When it comes to the future of Jordanian-Palestinian political relations, perhaps a reassessment of the current situation may clarify many ambiguous points that linger on, souring the relations between Jordan and the PLO. There are no comprehensible reasons that can drive a wedge between the Jordanians and the Palestinians, and the national unity of Jordan is far more important than the ambitions of aspiring politicians. For, aside from the historic and organic links between the one family, it is impossible to determine the nature of origin of each member of the Jordanian family. Divisions and pseudo-patriotism must be left behind with the end of this year, as a reminder of the evil effects of folly.

The future of inter-Arab relations still hangs in the balance. Old enemies have made peace, and old friends have become enemies, while still the Arab world suffers the seeds of self-hatred and derision. As we approach another year, since the cataclysm of 1991, Arab North Africa is playing one tune to suit their neighbors across the Mediterranean, the Gulf states preoccupied with border incursions and land disputes among themselves, while the Iraqis are still starving and their most able bodied citizens looking for an escape from the cradle of civilization. In the Near East, some are selling nationalism, when others are attempting to break the straight jacket of underdevelopment. Will the new year bring with itself some hope for the Arab world?

It is with determined effort that the true face of Islam must prevail over obscurantism, fanaticism, and ignorance. It is the face of compassion, tolerance and enlightenment. The faith under which other monotheistic faiths flourished in harmony and safety. The faith that ruled Andalusia, the compassion that liberated Jerusalem, and the Abbasid enlightenment which awakened a Europe, dormant in ignorance and barbarism. It is the faith that has always advanced civilization and enhanced it. Fate is in our hands, so let us make it a Happy New Year. ■

Hamas strikes again

A SUICIDE bomber wounded 13 people Sunday morning. He was killed when he mistimed the detonation of a satchel full of explosives near a bus full of Israeli air-men in Jerusalem.

Hundreds of soldiers had gathered near the Jerusalem Convention Center on Zalm Shazar Avenue, as they do each Sunday morning, for chartered bus rides back to their bases after weekend leave. The bomb to go off prematurely at about 6:10 am.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility for the attack. The political impact was heightened here by disclosure that the bomber was a member of the Gaza Strip's Palestinian police force.

In a statement to news agencies, Hamas pledged "to continue armed resistance until the liberation of all the occupied Palestinian lands," a reference to the entire territory of Israel. It said its attack was in revenge for Jewish expansion in Jerusalem and for the killings of militant figures in Gaza and the West Bank. The statement also saluted the Hezbollah forces fighting Israel in southern Lebanon and said the Jerusalem attack was a gift "to the spirits of the martyrs" killed by a car bomb last week in Beirut.

Sunday's target was notable not only for the large number of potential casualties but for its psychological distance from the Occupied Territories. Sunday's attack continued a pattern set in October of Hamas attacks.



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Colonel Gadaffi of Libya "...any relations with the West is destructive and detrimental"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Libya's Colonel Gadaffi has accused the West of "Islamic terrorism" and has said Libya will be forced to try the two suspects of the Lockerbie bombing. Interviewed for a special programme that was broadcast on BBC World Service Television's Arabic channel last week, Colonel Gadaffi says that his country is not interested in and does not want to cooperate with the west, and will urge other Arab and third world nations to boycott it.

What of the Lockerbie stalemate

The three western governments involved don't want to try those two suspects—this is a fact. They know that there are innocent and they're continuing to place obstacles in the way of a trial, and they have placed conditions which cannot be met—another tactic to delay the start of the trial. Why can't they be tried in Libya—we will be forced to try them ourselves in Libya to arrive at the truth. We express our solidarity with the families of the victims of the incident on one side and not having a trial on the other. The families should put pressure on their governments for the trial to take place—so that the truth is known, without worrying where the trial takes place, so we can arrive at the truth. Even if the suspects agree to be tried in the UK or America, the trial won't be fair, and the truth won't come out. Are you after punishment for Libya or a trial? If it's the former you've already done that.

If you are looking for the truth these governments are obstructing the truth, we will force them to reveal the truth as we are going to try them under the Treaty of Montreal.

Trial under Scottish law is ok, why not a trial in Scotland

It's not us who refuse—it's the suspects who are refusing to be tried in the UK or USA as they don't think they'll get a fair trial there (because they suspect the fairness of the courts in those two countries) these countries have put out enough propaganda to affect the trial—they're already been found pre-judged. The accused and their solicitors have evidence that the US Ambassador to the UN branded them "killers" who should stand trial. Since they have been prejudged as killers, why should we bring them to trial? They should be sentenced before a trial. This statement before the Security Council is sufficient proof for the accused—since they have officially concluded they are murderers why try them?

Libya involved?

This question is nonsensical

These two suspects are innocent, in that case you have nothing to fear by sending them to trial.

The fear is that they are innocent and they have already been branded as murderers. If they are condemned already it makes no difference to us if they are tried in Libya or anywhere else, but because they are innocent the fear is that they could be condemned falsely, as they have been falsely accused in the first place. If this is the attitude we don't mind if they are tried in a neutral country. The issue is one of imperialism. We are facing a new crusade against us. Western imperialism and a crusade.

It's three years after sanctions...

We are suffering oppressive sanctions, it's a matter of destroying the Arab World, the Muslim nation, and this has resulted in "Islamic terrorism" in the West. Even the western tourists are being tracked down in Arab streets and killed because it's apparent that they [West] want to kill these nations one after the other. This is the tragedy of the Libyan people, an innocent people being punished and suffering as a result. Nobody cares about our people, thousands of Iraqi children are dying, the west are enjoying this, they think of us as sheep and they are humans. But we have to prove to them that we are human too.

How can relations improve?

We don't need relations with the West. We have bitter historic experience of the West since the times of the crusades. The result is that any relations with the West is destructive and detrimental. Libya is not interested in relations with the West, we would rather live a primitive life and not cooperate with the West, and be out of this age. Libya will urge the Arab world and all the third world nations to boycott the West and turn it's back on the West. We don't want anything to do with the West, neither good nor bad. There is water dividing us—the Bosphorus, the Dardanelles, Marmara, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic they're on one side of the water and we're on this side, we don't need the West. We are not after improving relations, we don't trust dealing with them any more. If we buy aircraft from them, and a problem arises they ban sending them parts and the aircraft become useless. Who will buy aircraft any longer from the West? All the planes we bought from them are sitting idle. Either we lick their boots or face this result: we have no spare parts. The arms we brought from the West are without parts as well. The factories we bought from the West are without spare parts. How can we buy power stations, a car, an aircraft, a factory from the West. We can't have confidence in dealing with the West. If for everyday political differences which is normal between nations they stop sending spare parts for all these products, and impose economic sanctions, we are going to explain this to all nations who have relations or cooperate with the West. When we refused to be under their boots they bombed us and killed our children in their

sleep. We don't want to improve relations, trade, cooperation we have decided to live without technology without industry without modernization, their modernization so that we live in peace away from the West. We face south and east and run our back on them.

How would you react if Britain and the US escalate the situation and tighten the embargo?

We have no choice but to be armed with a patience and courage to face this enemy. Generally these two countries can escalate the situation and impose sanctions because they manipulate the United Nations as they want. The UN is nothing but a tool in the hands of America, Britain, France and Russia who united against Germany in the Second World War, the UN is now a sword over our heads.

But this is the reality.

Indeed, but we've got to stand against it. We will not surrender. We are ready to fight and resist till they regret what they've done.

There is a probability that Libya, like Cuba, can be under embargo for many years.

I would prefer one million times to be under embargo rather than to surrender to the US and Britain. And Cuba is better one thousand times than Panama, Grenada and Haiti.

But when the UN imposed the embargo on Libya, the Arab countries



were the first to implement it. Practically, Libya stands alone.

You mean that Libya should surrender, that's the solution?

Not at all, but there must be a practical solution for this problem.

We proposed all practical and reasonable solutions and they were rejected by all international organizations and all western countries. But there other organizations and countries who approved these solutions: the non-aligned movement, the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity and the Islamic Conference Organization, and other UN member states approved the Libyan solutions.

But the Arab and Islamic States voice their approval though communiques which doesn't help the Libyan people.

It's a matter of political positions. If these countries lift the embargo on Libya they would be accused of breaching the UN Pact. But we will say that Libya is right.

Do you expect a change in the American and British position within a year or two?

We don't care. We refuse to surrender, and we are ready to fight to the last man and woman. This is our position, and it's up to them. They can do whatever they like.

Libya is obviously involved in this affair. There are other powers and you certainly have information about their involvement. Why don't you defend your position?

This is not our business. It's theirs. We won't name them [these powers].

Have any countries asked you to give information to prove that Libya is not involved?

We do not have information and we won't give them. We are not their agents. It's up to them to find out who exploded the plane. I'm not talking about Lockerbie. I want to talk about Locker A not Locker B. Locker A is the massacre of 1986. We can not step over it, it should be discussed in the Security Council then we can talk about Locker B.

You've been counting the reactions of the Arab people and the Arab support. The Communist Bloc has fallen down: both Russia and China approved the sanctions.

I think your informations are not quite right. China is against sanctions. India was at the time at the Security Council and was against the sanctions. This is almost half the population of the world.

But China did not use the veto.

This is another story.

President Clinton said shortly before sanctions were imposed on Libya that there was no difference with the Libyan people. He cannot convince the American people of an embargo lift. The same thing was said by the British Prime Minister.

This means a racist animosity against the Arab semitism.

But Libya undoubtedly needs to establish good relations with the West. Libya needs neither good nor bad

relations with the West. Libya doesn't need any relations with the West. We want to live a primitive life. We can do without their electricity and use only fire and coal. We can do without their planes, cars and instead we can use donkeys! We do not need them. On the contrary, they are more in need of our oil and gas. Their companies need to earn billions from our projects. We do not need them and we will not negotiate with them.

How is the relationship between Russian and Libya?

Very normal. There are lots of interests between the two countries. Russia needs the Libyan petrol and money and Libya imports arms, experts, and everything from Russia. Russia also needs the political support of Libya and its normal power in the Arab and Islamic world and Africa. Russia tries to improve its relationship with Libya and so we do.

But why does Russia if it really needs Libya and the Arab World, approves the UN resolutions against Iraq and Libya?

Russia now continuously asks for an end of the embargo against Iraq as well as Libya. I think the Russian position has changed.

Do you still consider yourself as a defender of pan-Arabism after the collapse of all projects of unity and the deception of the Arab people?

Our revolutions aims at achieving unity and liberating Arab land. But this is not political task. It is a national revolutionary undertaking. It is no important that it is achieved under my auspices, the important thing is that the aim is achieved and the Arabs unite.

There comes a day when the West should choose between the Arab nation which extends from the Gulf to the ocean and Israel which is very small. Just like China when it made the other countries choose between her and Taiwan.

In your speech of last September you said that if Yasser

Arafat restored Gaza and the West Bank, you will transfer the Palestinians living in Libya. How do you reconcile between your belief in Pan-Arab nationalism and this?

It's not an act of treason to host the Palestinians, and I'm calling all Arab countries to transfer Palestinians to Palestine so that we can make sure that the problem of this people has been solved. The Palestinian refugees living in camps is a clear proof that what happened is. There is no need to recognize Israel while Palestinians are still dispersed. What I mean [by transferring Palestinians] is to show the truth. They say that the problem is now solved, so why should I host 30,000 Palestinians. They've got to have their own passports, permanent residence and to live as citizens. The Palestinian people is still suffering and the problem [Palestinian cause] is far from being solved. What happened is no more capitulation and selling of their cause.

Is Libya ready to recognize Israel in the future, especially now that Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians have signed peace agreements with it and the Syrians are negotiating with Israelis.

Who can exercise pressure on us to do that? Who can push any Arab country to recognize Israel?

You sent Libyan Palestinians to Jerusalem as a protest against the blockade. But what is the relationship between this city and Mecca?

The Libyan Palestinians were not allowed to enter Mecca via air. It's a pity that US resolutions apply to this city. They were then obliged to take camels and go to Jerusalem. They spent one or two months to be there and many of them died. We don't know what will happen next time.

I see, but I still remember that Saudi Arabia offered to bring Libyan Palestinians via air or sea.

Why not Libyan planes. This is not tourism or commerce, this is pilgrimage. Besides, it's not Saudi Arabia's task to decide on that. It's the task of the Security Council or America.

Do you think that Mecca and the other holy Mosques should be in this case under the custody of a certain Islamic country for instance?

It becomes clear that the situation in Mecca is getting difficult. But if Saudis clear themselves away from international politics and remain as the [guardian] of the two holy mosques, then there is no problem. Otherwise, they should move Mecca and Medina out of the scope of politics and give them a status like the Vatican. But it is wrong to drag Mecca and Medina into politics and foreign affairs. There is the House of God not of Saudi or Gadafi.

Libya presented a memo to the Arab League for the expulsion of Jordan. Why Jordan exactly while Egypt was the first to sign a peace agreement with Israel.

Egypt recognized the enemy when Sadat was in power, not Mubarak. Moreover, Egypt suffered a lot from its isolation for then to 15 years and Sadat was assassinated. The second country to sign a peace agreement with Israel is Jordan, so it should also be expelled and boycotted for 15 years as we did with Egypt before. ■

Media
East Bank
by
Khairi Janbek

Libyan Declarations and Syrian negotiations

THE RECENT declarations by the Libyan president regarding the Palestinian question are truly Gadafi vintage. The colonel, suggests now that he will bar Palestinians from entering Libya, and expel the depleted Palestinian population from his land. All this, to remind the world, that the Palestinian problem has not been solved.

Together with his political differences with the PLO, he wishes to make Palestinians pay the price for seeking to earn their livelihood in his unfortunate land. One is entitled to question the difference between such intentions, and the Israeli punitive measures exercised in the Occupied Territories.

At least, the Israelis are an occupation force and the worst is expected of them in dealing with the rightful owners of the land. But with President Gadafi and his mish-mash of Islamic-Arab theories one is surprised at not being able to distinguish between the Green Book methods and Hertzelian Zionism.

The Israelis may well be concerned with the developments affecting the population in the Occupied Territories. But Colonel Gadafi, in a true Pan-Arab colors, wishes the Arab countries to expel all Palestinians. But for what may ask? Well simply to show, according to Gadafi logic, that the Palestinian problem is still a fact of life.

The colonel has no apparent destination in mind for the Palestinian expelles. But one soon realizes that what Gadafi means is that "their expulsion back to Palestine. The rest of the venom in the colonel's speeches is naturally reserved to Jordan, the most natural partner of the Palestinians.

He calls upon all Muslims and Arabs to boycott and impose an embargo against Jordan for signing peace with Israel. One does not wish to ask President Gadafi, what has he done for Jordan throughout the years of confrontation with Israel.

Yet, one is tempted to remind the colonel politely, that he should be more concerned with alleviating the pains of the Libyan people by acting in a manner to convince the international community of lifting the sanctions imposed against his country, rather than issue ludicrous and juvenile charges against Jordan.

Each time, the prospects of a better understanding on the negotiations table between Syria and Israel looms on the horizon, it seems that the south of Lebanon has to go up in smoke.

The Lebanese resistance, though seemingly wrecking the negotiations, tend to be up the anti, preparing the grounds for amicable negotiations between Syria and Israel, the two main parties in the formula of peace for Lebanon.

While the Syrian military and their Israeli counterparts meet in Washington to settle their differences, we see Israeli generals and Lebanese resistance commanders planning the scene for the next carnage, irrespective of the thousands of civilians who will definitely suffer for the peace that may come to them eventually through Syrian negotiations, while themselves, providing the blood for its success.

The Palestinians may achieve their independence without Colonel Gadafi, but the Lebanese will not get theirs without President Assad. ■

Have political baggage, will travel

BY CROCKER SNOW JR.

IT WAS 20 years (and six months) ago that Richard Nixon beat a path to the capitals of the Middle East which the latest holder of the US presidency, Bill Clinton, followed so faithfully last October. To this diarist, who was a member of the White House press corps during the Nixon trip, the dramatic déjà vu—as well as the differences—of the two presidential forays are compelling.

The stopovers the two men made were much the same. Republican Nixon visited Cairo, Jeddah, Damascus, Tel Aviv and Amman in turn during his six-day trip. Democrat Clinton's five-day itinerary covered the same ground in roughly the same order, with only Kuwait City—where US troops so recently engaged in a war—added to the list.

The pomp, circumstance and even some of the personalities were similar for both trips, and sometimes the same. Nixon met with Syria's Hafez al-Assad. Clinton did too. Each got stonewalled. Nixon huddled with Jordan's King Hussein. Clinton did too, at a crossing on the Hashemite Kingdom's border with Israel where the two countries signed a treaty.

In each case, however, the president's mood and situation was probably bleaker than those of anyone with whom they met. Bill Clinton's trip, as Richard Nixon's two decades earlier, was motivated as much by domestic politics as by international policies. Each president found the complex problems of the region more attractive than the demands of their own political system and the public opinion which was driving it.

Nixon in 1974 was in the final throes of his political death struggle with Watergate, the political shenanigans and subsequent cover-up that brought his presidency crashing to an end. His last trip abroad was a move of desperation, designed to refocus public and congressional attention on his diplomatic strengths, not his political shortcomings. And it didn't work.

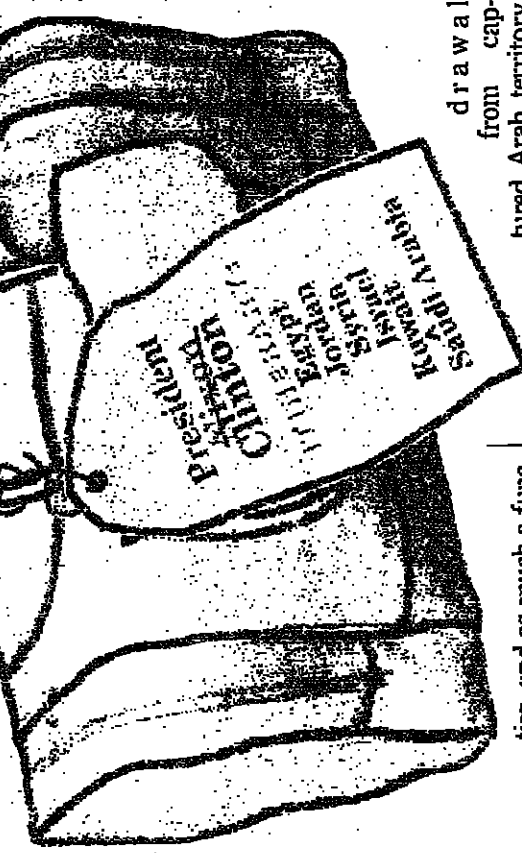
Bill Clinton is not in such political distress. But scarcely two years into his presidency, his popularity ratings in public opinion polls, hovering at about 35 percent and facing the possibility of a Republican congress to contend with for the first time since 1954, he too set off for the exotic Middle East. Like Nixon his trip was an effort to regain the high ground; to be seen as a peacemaker, not a pol. and to remind the American voters of his administration's role in helping to broker the historic handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat in 1993. Politically, it didn't work. Two weeks

later, on November 8, Republicans captured control of both houses of Congress. It was a crushing political defeat for Clinton.

So the two trips, 20 years apart and the only visits to Amman and Damascus by a sitting US president during this time, had striking "photo-op" and motivational similarities. But there the parallels end. In fact, the differences are as dramatic as the similarities.

Bill Clinton had no such defining moment during his swing through the Middle East. The political environment was totally different. When Nixon responded to my question, less than two months before he resigned, there had been no Camp David Accord with Sadat embracing Menachem Begin.

There had been no Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. No murmuring of the first Israel-Egypt trade, no ostracizing of Egypt from the ranks of the Organization of Arab States. There had been no Iran-Iraq war, of course, and no subsequent grab of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein—not to mention the



drawal from captured Arab territory. It's an army of contemporary history that two American presidents—one a Republican foreign policy expert, the other a Democratic policy wonk—tried to latch on the coattails of Middle East politics in an effort to bolster their own electoral fortunes. And, not surprisingly, they both failed. ♦

LETTERS

Fools' gold

TERRY BELL'S story, "Lesotho turns its water into gold" (*The World/Jpiper*, November 1994), merely touches on the supposed benefits of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and wholly neglects investigating whether or not they can actually be delivered, and at what costs.

The LHWP is located in a region subject to a high rate of erosion. Estimates of sedimentation, and thus the useful life of the project, may be off by as much as 50 percent. The limited land availability in the country, generally, indicates that erosion problems will only worsen. The dams could silt up well in advance of Lesotho's repayment of its loans to build it, as is already happening in Latin America and China.

Terry Bell highlights the mutual trust between governments, but what of trust between government and its people? Over 3,000 people are being forced from their traditional livelihood as a result of the Katse Dam alone, and there is no suitable land for resettlement. These people were never consulted prior to moving forward with

challenge this posed to the Palestinian crusade and to any semblance of Arab solidarity.

All this has happened and more in the subsequent 20 years. Outside the region, the Berlin Wall crumbled and the Soviet Empire imploded, robbing the Arab states of the gains that came with playing superpowers off against each other.

So Bill Clinton, following the same path as Richard Nixon, was ruffled by different winds and wafted by new zephyrs. His trip was billed as a "win-win-for-peace" visit. The Israelis were in a compromising mood, occasioned as much by the pressures of so many right-wing Russian émigrés by the hard-to-crack settlers in the Golan Heights and the West Bank, as by the changes in the Arab world itself or any satisfaction with the Rabin/Arafat handshake. A true Palestinian state was in the making around Jericho and along the Gaza Strip. Yasser Arafat was now a head of state, the point person in the struggle to stop the radical Hamas from undermining his gains.

It's an army of contemporary history that two American presidents—one a Republican foreign policy expert, the other a Democratic policy wonk—tried to latch on the coattails of Middle East politics in an effort to bolster their own electoral fortunes. And, not surprisingly, they both failed. ♦

the project, and rehabilitation to their previous living standards seems all but impossible.

Unfortunately, this situation is all too common with large-dam projects. In October, 2,150 non-governmental organizations from 44 countries presented the 17-point "Manibeli Declaration" to World Bank president Lewis Preston which called for an immediate moratorium on World Bank funding of large dams. Among the costs cited were 10 million people forcibly displaced, more than 400 rivers dammed, and US\$54 billion invested in projects that may never deliver their intended benefits.

Managing our rivers and fresh water resources is indeed a critical issue, more so in Africa than in many parts of the world. The LHWP is not the appropriate solution. In the end, the only gold to be had will be for the multinational construction companies and consultants who will already be off making deals on another river somewhere else in the world. ♦

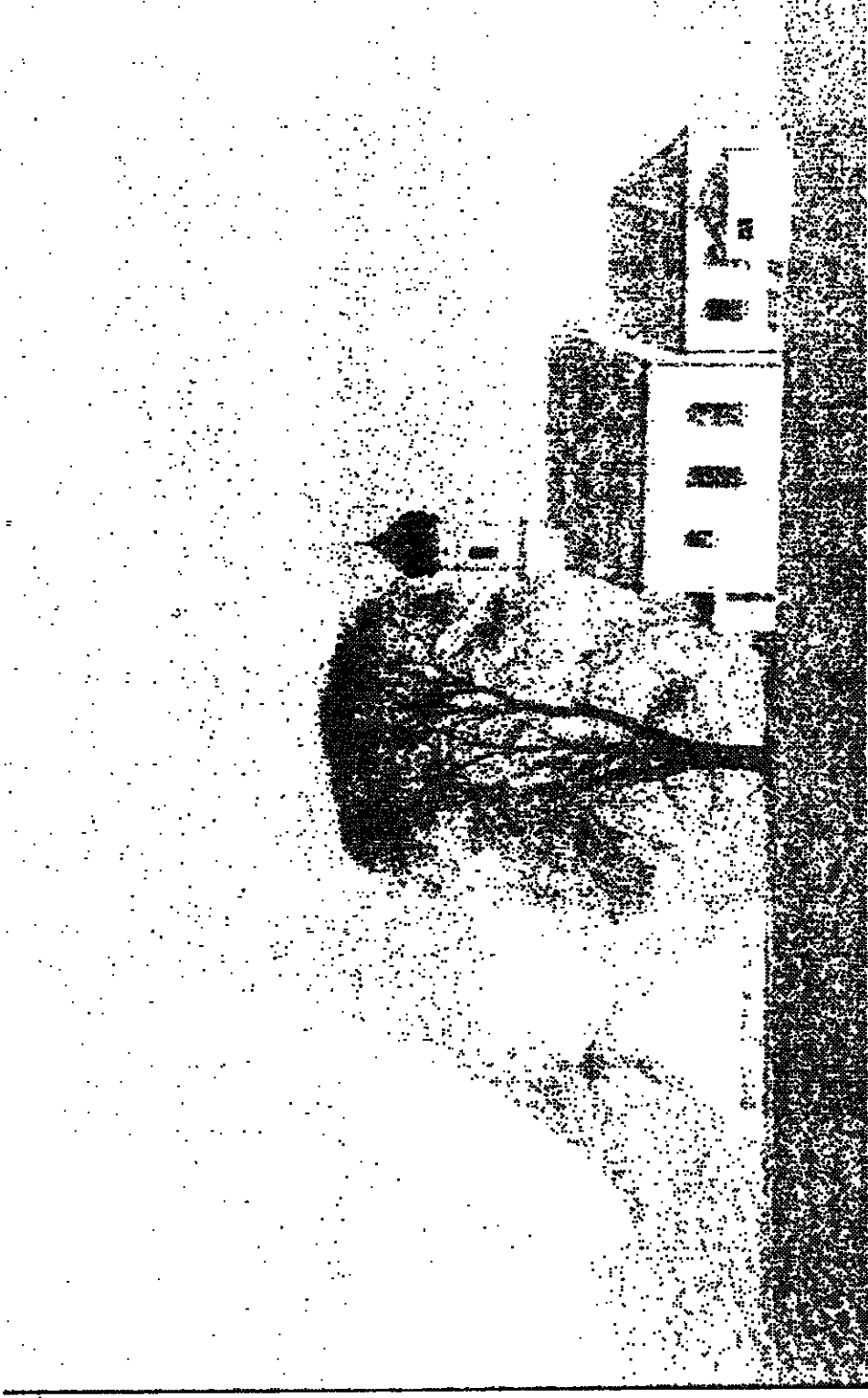
—Owen Lammers, Executive Director, International Rivers Network, Berkeley, California, USA

The World Paper

December 1994

LIBERATING LEARNING

Educational reform is in the wind. In big countries and small, rich countries and poor, educators are being challenged to prepare students for a world of constant change. The revolution in "what" is matched by equal reform in "how." Traditional teaching methods are seen as outmoded. Computer technology is being introduced as a teaching aid to improve efficiency and effectiveness. These articles feature some of the highlights of the use of technology as a tool in educational reform and the glaring differences between high- and low-tech countries.



Computers accelerate the learning curve

By GEORGE WHITE in Boston

MY CLOSEST friend illustrates the newer worlds of technology by inflating a small, multi-colored plastic globe.

"For my best students," says Joel Isaac Greenberg, "this is the world; it's this close, this easy to handle."

He should know. For the past 27 years Greenberg has been teaching conventional literature and classics in unconventional ways at the Lawrenceville School, a large,

traditional and academically rigorous private school near Princeton, New Jersey. Newer technologies, however, are changing both Greenberg's job and the way he does it.

Today, Greenberg does research, prepares lessons and creates tests on his laptop computer. "It makes the homework easier and faster," he says. "But that's not the half of it."

Continued on the next page

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LIBERATING LEARNING

Computers accelerate the learning curve

Continued from previous page

The other "half" includes constructing multi-media; teaching creative writing by computer through a public school "gifted and talented" program at Mercer County Community College; meeting regularly with inner-city Philadelphia science teachers on Apple Global Education's (AGE) telecommunication network; scheduling the English Department's new chairs by means of a spread sheet program; and even telecommunicating with colleagues from other departments across Lawrenceville's growing campus.

Greenberg's work, made possible by tiny microchips and optic fibers, illustrates how dramatic and radical an impact technology is having on the world's classrooms, teachers and students. From Teillard de Chardin to Norbert Wiener, every 20th century futurist agrees that changing our working tools means more than just changing production; social structure, social relations and social values are other facets of life that will be subjected to radical alterations.

What then can we expect as we board the electronic superhighway? What possibilities should we anticipate for education? What pitfalls?

George White is the Apple Global Education project's USA director. He teaches English and Journalism to public school students in the vicinity of Boston.

might education be warned against? First, we should expect that the technological revolution in education will not be confined to a single room in the global schoolhouse. Technology will increasingly affect our global social, political, religious and economic lives. Education will be far more central to our world than previously was the case.

Second, we should keep in mind that, just as the world today is unevenly rich and poor, free and constrained, productive and inefficient, ignorant and informed, so will a global village be. Already existing inequities should inform our choices on how to use technology, under what conditions and where.

It seems realistic to foresee that gaps in education between different regions of the world will be filled. For example, while many elite secondary schools today lack the most elementary computer technology to accommodate their "severely gifted" charges, installation of a single telephone line and modem in an underprivileged part of the world has already transformed its pupils' educational environment.

Third, if all imaginable information does indeed become available, whether on the "silver disk" of CD-ROMs or through the magic wires of telecommunication, then we will have to learn to sort it in order to make sensible use of it. As in the American supermarket, not everything on the plethora of shelves is of equal value; bright, flashy candies are not as nutritious as dul-

looking grains. Ease of access will not automatically mean that we will be better informed.

Technology and telecommunications will make it possible to reduce every classroom's isolation. Wires have already made walls less barriers; other technologies will soon render them irrelevant. Schools and classes will become ubiquitous, as will teachers.

The role of teachers will not be diminished by this new technology; they will become co-learners, coaches, facilitators, perhaps most of all guides through, around, and on the "information superhighway." In fact, teachers, both formal and informal, will increase in number, helping us as children, as young adults, and for the rest of our lives, to log on and connect in this new world of the computer.

Examples of these changing attitudes abound. Annie Leonard is one of Greenberg's associates on the AGE Learning Project, which aims to connect their schools with over 500 schools around the world and to bring three dozen American students and teachers to Prague to meet with their Czech counterparts on issues of emerging democracy.

Leonard teaches second-year History at Newton South High School, near Boston. As she was getting up her classroom at the beginning of her first term, she asked, to the amusement of her colleagues, for the "modern connections." Like many younger, enterprising teachers, she simply assumed that the school would be equipped with some kind of telecommunications network.

In addition to next summer's venture with Greenberg, Leonard has an AGE project of her own that targets China. During the latter part of 1994 she hosted half a dozen youngsters from Beijing's Jingshan School. In the Spring she plans to live and teach at Jingshan with half a dozen Newton students, who will go equipped with their laptop computers. On the AGE "Discussion Board" she writes that "the students" will try their first cross-cultural commentary, describing their experiences learning to live with each other, co-written by the Chinese students now staying in Newton and their American hosts.

In addition to opening new doors, new educational technology has the potential to let more students pass through those doors—as in the Moss Pointe public schools in the Mississippi Delta. In contrast with Lawrenceville or

Newton, Moss Pointe does not have any powerful alumni. Nor does it have any working associations with such prestigious universities as Harvard or Stanford. Mississippi ranks near the bottom in state support for education, and Moss Pointe could hardly be said to be one of its vanguard districts. Yet, thanks to the efforts of its superintendent, Moss Pointe is on the world map with technology.

The superintendent, Dr. Hines Cronin, has been able to garner hardware for his schools, and has seen to it that his teachers are connected with one another through high-powered personal and telecommunications networks. Cronin-inspired examples, such as the Elvis-style Civics teacher who debates issues of religion and morality in local classrooms throughout Central Europe, demonstrate the value technology can have in youngsters' lives.

Cronin's justification for the use of technology is the following: "We don't have any choice... Textbooks are enormously expensive, Moss Pointe couldn't afford them in the Sixties and Seventies." During the last decade, Cronin seized upon technology as a way of "leapfrogging" his students into the 21st century. He claims that teaching materials furnished on CD-ROMs and networks are often "richer, more detailed, accessible, and timely." In addition, he holds, "these materials encourage our teachers to become more involved, because they must adapt them to our region's classrooms and students."

At Sheffield Academy, a 163-year-old private secondary school north of Hartford, Connecticut, technology might appear misplaced. But its tweed jacket and regimental accoutrements have not hindered its evolution there. This past year, Dr. David Holmes made mandatory that the entire student body as well as the teachers (300 students and 50 faculty in all) be equipped with laptop computers.

This bold plan has predictably ruffled pedagogical feathers. But Sheffield's students, teachers, and parents are enthusiastic about the possibilities which the computers offer. Moreover, the school was satisfied to see that public and private educators alike, as well as the New York Times, were quickly betting a path to its door. "We wanted to go all the way," was Holmes' explanation. "We wanted to put this power directly into the hands of students, allow them to own it, play with it, connect and build with it." ♦

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Israel sets its sights on transfer of knowledge

Civilian economy gains from military education

BY JOEL BARNERMAN
in Jerusalem

MOST people look at the Israeli army and see a disciplined, well-trained and motivated fighting force. While such an assessment of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is true, it only skims the surface of an institution whose military success stands on a foundation of technological education and training. This training, in turn, is a major factor in the civilian economy's high-tech sector.

"The IDF is one big technical college," says Yehua Baras, a 25-year-old computer engineer who used the experience and education he gained in the army to found his own company. "I not only learnt about computers, but I learnt how to apply what I learnt about computers in different, real-life situations. The combination of learning, and being able to apply what one learns in a situation that one would meet in everyday life, is crucial to one's technical background."

From the moment a recruit is drafted at the age of 18, the IDF sets out to identify and exploit his or her unique talent. The same effort is devoted to equipping recruits with an education that will not only serve the needs of

help society when they get out," says Robert Weisburg, an immigrant from New York who teaches micro-electronics in the army.

Weisburg believes that the emphasis the IDF puts on drafts to learn a trade while they are serving weeds out those who would have drifted into the university system by providing a level of instruction equal to that provided by many of the country's leading colleges. It also allows for the smooth flow of information and ideas to and from the IDF's technical departments and instructors.

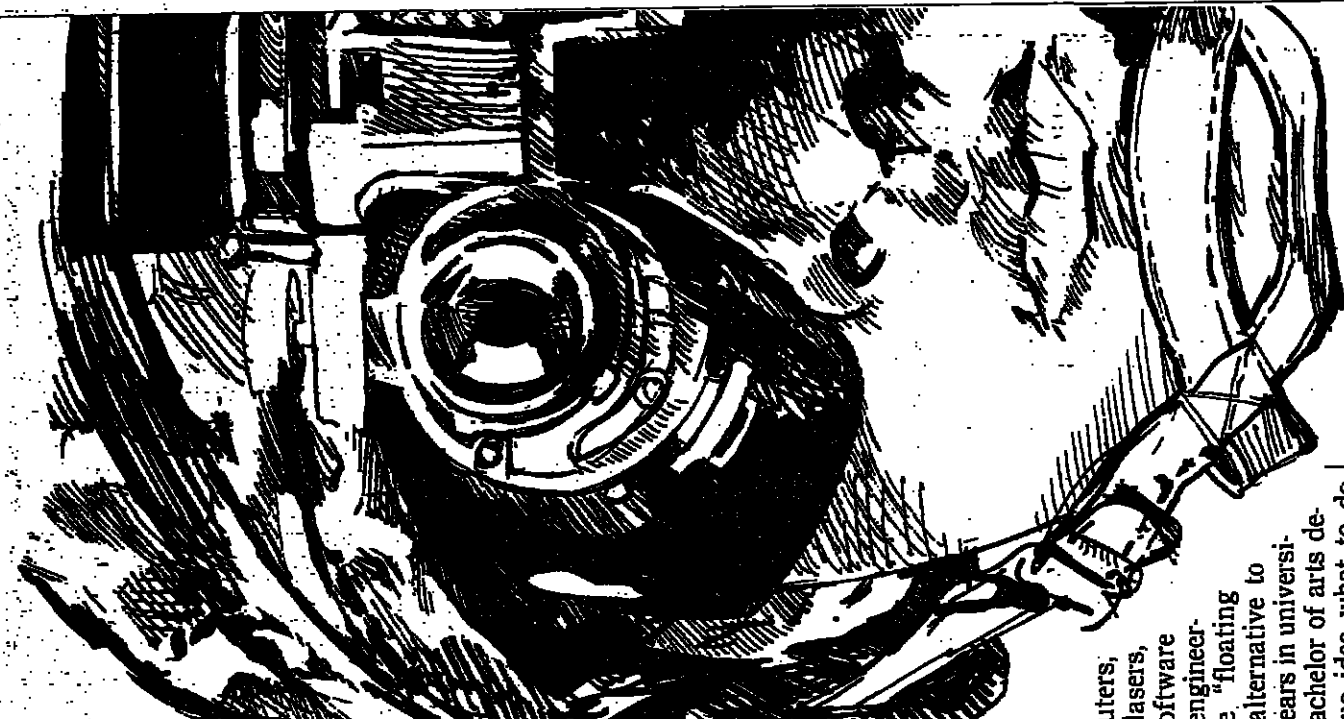
The general feeling in Israel is that drafting every able-bodied person is beneficial for the country despite the large chunk of the IDF's US\$12 billion budget that goes to educate and train them. Teenagers who did not do well in high school get a second chance to catch up by learning a trade in the army which will be marketable when they are demobilized.

"The advantage of Israel's army is that inductees are not simply looked upon as mere cannon fodder, but rather as someone who can learn a trade, be useful to the army and then

think" them in a way which meets Israel's defense needs. This fosters an innovative mentality that has resulted in numerous entrepreneurs starting their own high-tech firms.

In the opinion of consultant Daniel Halpern, "the military itself comprises an ideal research and development center for many technologies, as it often serves as a beta site for new products and systems." Jay Peter Sprague, chairman of National Semiconductor when it established a research and development center in Israel during 1982 to design the 30632 chip, said that his company was attracted to the engineers who, thanks to their IDF training, "were highly goal-directed and project-focused."

The military itself has examined how it should react to the new geopolitical environment now that Israel has signed peace treaties with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization. There is a major schism in the armed forces over the question of whether financial resources should be shifted from military to civilian uses. Traditionally, 15% of the military budget fell on the technical education programs since they carry the least weight with the generals and politicians.

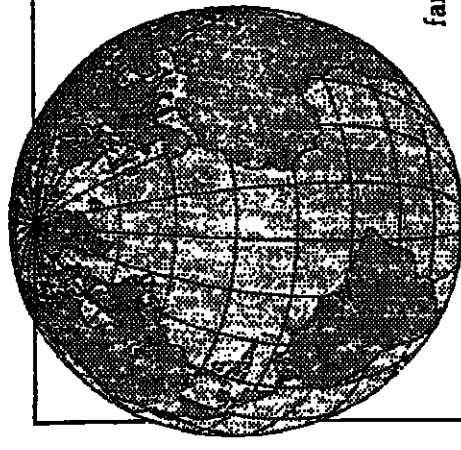


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Not by electronics alone

Mexicans discover that more than technology is needed to extend the reach of higher education

BY SERGIO SARMIENTO
in Mexico City

IT WAS September 1977. A Mexican educator and intellectual, Henrique Gonzalez Casanova, had been asked to create a new government institution. Named the Open Education Coordination, its purpose was the promotion of efforts to utilize mass media—especially radio and television—for educational purposes.

Casanova's team set about its task by drawing upon the experience of institutions in other countries. The example everyone had in mind those days was the British Open University, which successfully promoted higher education through multi-media packages that included television broadcasts, printed materials, mail tutorials and weekend seminars.

Despite the enthusiasm of Casanova's team, efforts to implement a similar system in Mexico proved difficult. Instructing people at a distance involves more than simply standing in front of a television camera, and with time it became clear that motivating the students to continue their studies and providing them with a structured environment was more important than all the lectures that could be provided via television.

Before these lessons could be fully acted on, political changes brought an end to the Open Education Coordination. It was reorganized as the National Institute of Adult Education (INEA), and its mandate narrowed. INEA's main objective is to teach illiterate adults to read and write. Generating a full-fledged educational system supported by the mass media that would allow Mexicans to get an education at home, from the rudiments of the alphabet to a university degree, was largely abandoned by the government.

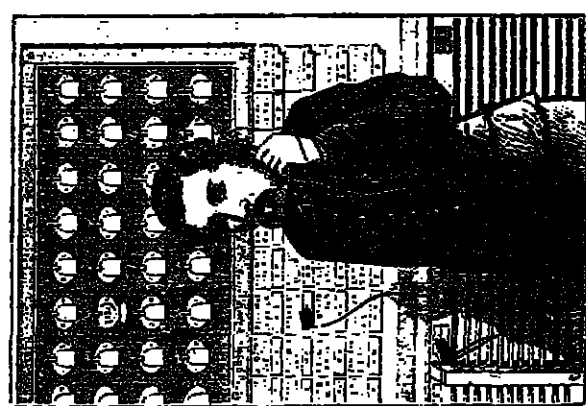
Today, only the huge, autonomous but publicly funded National University maintains an open university program. Those of the 350,000-strong student body who are enrolled in this institution's open education system are simply required to do school work at home using bibliographies and some tutorials. Mass media plays little part in the teaching process. The result, however, have not been encouraging—the drop-out rate is huge and the quality of instruction low.

With the steady retreat by the public sector, the development of extended education was taken up by a private university, the Instituto Tecnológico de

Sergio Sarmiento is the editor-in-chief of Encyclopaedia Britannica Publishers Inc. (Latin America) and a newspaper columnist.

LIBERATING LEARNING

Estudios Superiores de Monterrey—has developed a system for setting up satellite campuses that relies heavily on a private network of television broadcasts. These allow students to get instruction from the best teachers, regardless of where they might be, and the system has enabled small cities throughout the country to get their own "Tec de Monterrey."



The equipment is great, but some fellow students would be nice.

Critics, including educators at established universities, have dismissed the system of "franchise Tecs." Though it is clear that some of the new campuses have not risen to the standard of the original, they offer a much higher level of instruction than was available prior to their arrival. In central Veracruz, for example, existing institutions had difficulty attracting qualified professors, and many students were forced to leave the area in order to get a good university education. This changed n-

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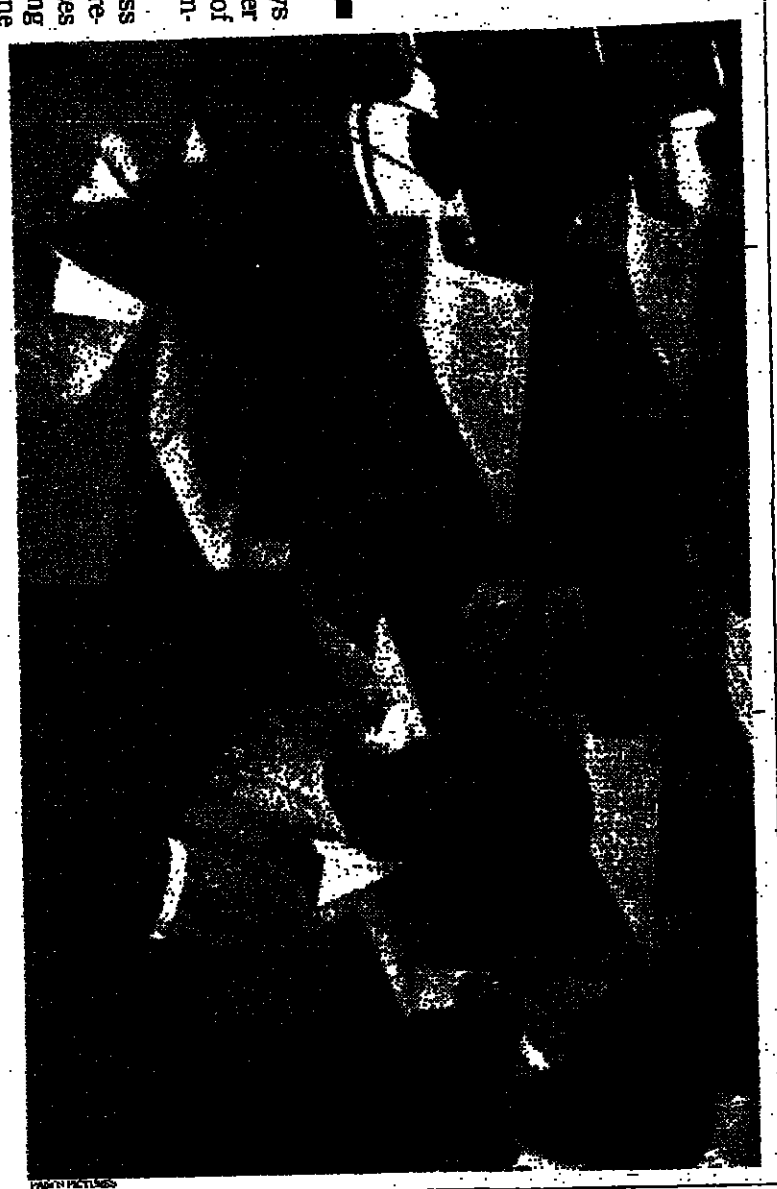
Long march out of the classroom

China harnesses TV for education

By CHEN YA
in Beijing

MANY teachers find it difficult to engage teenagers in politics, a required course in China's high schools. The content, which includes dialectical materialism, historical materialism, basic Marxist principles and the history of social evolution, can be too abstract for the youngsters, especially when the instructor is inexperienced and dull.

Chen Ji, a 22-year-old politics teacher at a junior high school in Yancheng, in the north, has found a way to overcome this. "I just avoid cramming the students with theories and try to explain things to them in easy terms using vivid illustrations



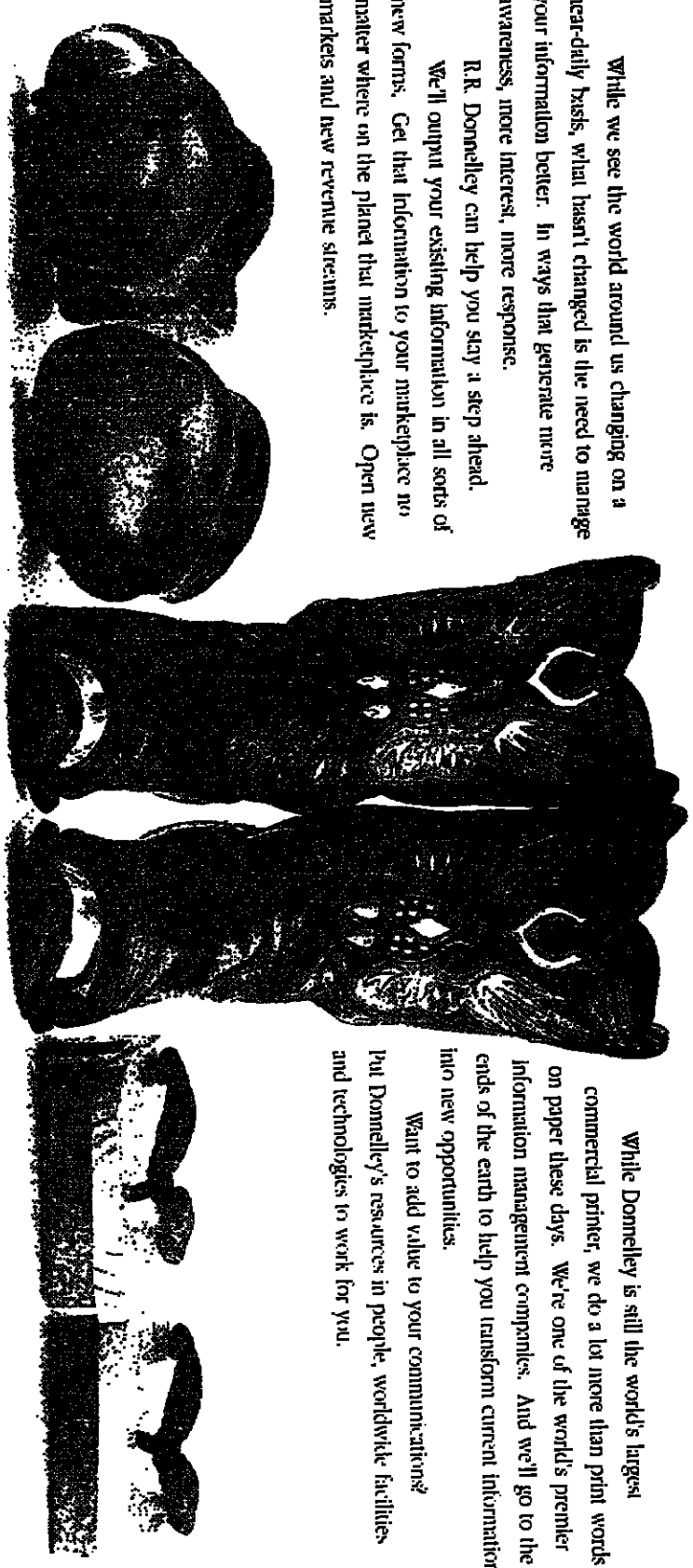
Starting with the postal system in the 1950s, China has aggressively applied new technologies to the goal of expanding education's reach.

and stories," says Chen, listed by her students as one of their favorite instructors. Chen's success stems from correspondence courses she started taking in 1993. She is one of millions who have benefited from the use of technology to expand the reach of educational establishments in China. While much of this "outreach" has depended on the postal system, it is gaining fresh impetus from the application of computer and television technology.

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textbooks, materials and related homework for three courses," she explains. "During the winter and summer vacations, professors from the university come to the coaching center in Yancheng to give the local correspondence students face-to-face guidance and correct their papers."

According to Chen, all her correspondence course work is done during her free time, and she pays 400 yuan a year for tuition—the equivalent of one month's salary. "But it's worthwhile," she says. "Now I feel more confident when facing my students."

Among the advantages of this system is the fact that the course curriculum can be adapted to local and individual needs. Zhang Daye, an official in charge of remote education under the State Education Commission (SEC), points out that correspondence courses have helped to meet the demand for specialists in engineering cost analysis spurred by recent economic development. This has given the universities time to set up the framework for teaching this new discipline.

University, with total fixed assets of 20 million yuan, has provided 130,000 professional graduates in 14 years," he says.

Statistics from the State Education Commission also show that the yearly cost of a TV university student is one-third that of a regular university student, and that TV university teachers instruct 19 times the number of students taught by their counterparts in formal universities.

While most radio and television universities focus on higher education, CETV also offers programs for students at the primary and secondary levels. Founded in 1985, CETV "has provided education opportunities for at least 30 million people, including training programs for 2 million high and primary school teachers, lectures for 1 million TV university students, in-service training for 3 million workers and clerks, as well as practical technical training for 20 million farmers," says Song Changdong, director of CETV.

Song believes it is essential to set up educational television stations in large cities—especially the provincial capitals—because provincial stations can craft new programs that meet local needs. So far, the provincial capitals of Liaoning, Xinjiang, Ningxia, Tibet, Yunnan and Shanxi have launched such stations.

Special attention has been paid to minority regions, says Song. An estimated 60 percent of the counties in Shanxi, Sichuan, Guangxi and Jiangxi provinces have some form of station, and there are 100 satellite ground stations in Tibet. Ideally, by the end of 1995, 70 percent of China's counties will have established educational television stations, and by 2000 CETV will broadcast programs 70 hours a day through four satellite channels.

"By then, remote education in China will be a full-fledged, comprehensive system acting as a supplement to regular education," says Song.

of the 26 million Chinese pursuing university-level studies, these courses have proved an effective way of popularizing higher education in a country where the average length of schooling is six and a half years.

Chen is enrolled in Suzhou University's correspondence program. "Each year the university sends me

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have provided education opportunities for at least 30 million Chinese

and 1,600 local branches, 21 disciplines and 40,000 teachers. During these 15 years, 1.67 million students have graduated, a number equivalent to 30 percent of the graduates from formal universities.

According to Zhang, CRTV is responsible for working out a complete teaching program and curricula for the students, compiling teaching materials, making audio and video programs and arranging transmission with radio and television stations. Its courses are offered through Central TV Station (CCTV) and China Education TV Station (CETV).

Cost has also been a factor in the drive to televise higher education. "Radio and TV universities provide an economical way to bring up well-educated personnel," says Liu Shining, vice-president of Sichuan Radio and TV University.

Liu estimates that setting up a regular medium-sized university costs at least 100 million yuan (US\$12.5 million), and it takes five to 10 years for a new university to get on the right track. "But Sichuan Radio and TV

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Business scene

A \$20 million agreement was signed between the Central Bank of Jordan and the Arab Trade Financing Programme. It will allow the Government to make use of the Programme for Environmental Projects and for the promotion of trade between Jordan and the Arab world. Dr Jasim Al Mana, the executive president of the programme, said this is the second deal to promote Jordan's economic reforms. The first grant was \$32 million.

The French government reiterated its willingness to assist Jordan in organizing courses of training, qualification and improving efficiency for its personnel in water works, especially in the computerization of the management and operation fields. Mr Mohammed Bani Hani, the general secretary of the Water Ministry, said the policy of the ministry includes a review of the regulations governing its work and the setting up of a data gathering and documentation system.

Mr Nicola Sabanek, chairman of Travels and Tours Association said that a round of discussion was organized with their Israeli counterparts to launch joint tourism programs attracting tourists from the US, Europe and the Far East. "There are more than 16 airline companies with extra flights that land at Tel Aviv and Eilat airports," he said. Jordanian tourist agents can easily make deals with the Israelis that would allow these tourists to go to Jordan via Wadi Araba and Sheikh Hussein bridge he said.

With a capital of JD 4 million, a group of Jordanian investors established the Jordanian Company of Specialized Investment (JCIS). The founders have shares of JD 250,000 (one JD for each share), the rest will be issued for public subscription. JCIS will be dealing with real estate investment, housing construction and farm raising. JCIS will also be involved in setting up industries.

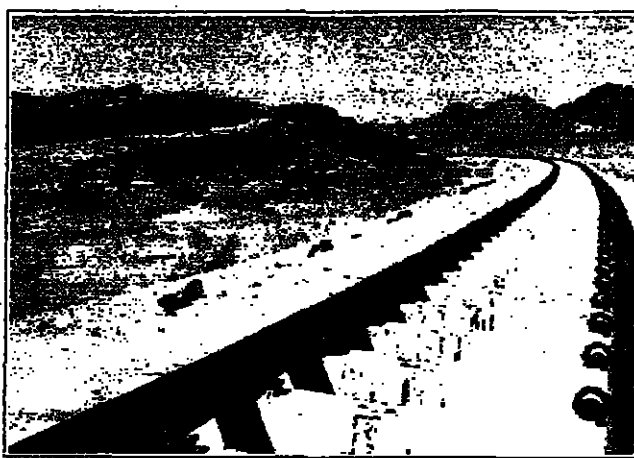
Dr Umayya Tougan, of the Amman Financial Market, said changes in the economic regulations of Jordan must be introduced if increased foreign investment is to take place. Calling for greater openness and capital free movement he said that the current regulations were worked out in times of conflict, whereas the region is now picking up the first fruits of peace.

Environment, another headache for the Middle East, WB says

THE WORLD Bank called for immediate action to confront the environmental crisis in the Arab world and said it would consider increasing its regional lending for environment projects to \$1 billion annually. About 60 million people have no access to safe water in the Arab world and nine Arab countries are consuming more than 100 percent of their renewable water supplies, World Bank figures show. More than 45 million live in cities with unacceptable air pollution levels.

"When roughly one in every four people in the Arab world lacks access to safe water, and one in every five is living in cities with unacceptable levels of air pollution, we are talking about a looming water and air pollution crisis," said Caio Koch-Weser, vice president of the Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region, in an address to the 6th annual Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment meeting held in Cairo earlier this month. "The good news is that strategies are available for dealing with the crisis, at costs that can be met."

The environment strategy, detailed in a 78-page report titled *Middle East and North Africa Environmental Strategy: Towards Sustainable Development*, emphasizes actions on water, land, air, and energy. It also assesses the costs of such measures and suggests ways of



financing them.

Individual governments would need to take the lead to develop their own country-specific programs to use natural resources wisely and arrest environmental degradation, Koch-Weser said. Nothing that the region's severe shortage of natural resources and its pollution problems are the main obstacles to sustainable growth. He also outlined the Bank's view of an environment strategy to balance the regions development needs with the serious environmental challenges it faces.

Assuming that appropriate policies are in place, the World Bank will be increasing its current annual lending to the region by more than 100 percent to \$1 billion a year to support Arab states' attempts to

fighting natural resource scarcity and pollution. Incentives for pollution control, including phasing out subsidies and introducing pollution charges, should be put in effect. Investments, he said, should be targeted toward making water safe for consumption and for many "hot spots" requiring clean-up. And increasing information among ordinary citizens of the need for water, soil, and energy conservation is crucial to encourage consumer participation in solving environmental problems.

Less than seven percent of the region's land is arable, making land one of the scarcest natural resources in Arab states. Land degradation from soil erosion and deforestation has worsened the situation, which is particularly severe in the Maghreb countries, according to the report.

Water shortage is perhaps the best known constraint to future economic growth in the region, with Arab states accounting for only one percent of the world's total available water. Moreover, as Arab countries deplete their renewable water sources, much of it is deteriorating in quality as urban and industrial pollution increases, the report indicates.

Power shortages throughout the Arab world are notoriously frequent. Electricity scarcity, the report says, is largely caused by inefficient use, due in part to electricity subsidies of \$10 billion a year. The

highly polluting sector is also estimated to contribute up to 40 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions and much of nitrogen oxide and suspended particulate emissions.

A range of remedies is proposed in the environment strategy to confront the region's severe land, water, and power scarcity, including new incentives for conservation and efficient use, supported by investments and effective public information campaigns.

With respect to land use, the concept of food self-sufficiency should be abandoned in favor of agriculture based on high value crops. Investment in efficient use technologies, such as drip irrigation, is vital as is opening up markets for agricultural products and exporting foods. Water projects, too, can be managed through a combination of incentives, investments and information dissemination, the report says. Investments in water recycling, new technologies, and efficiency improvements are called for, as is increasing water prices to encourage water conservation and mobilize financial resources.

Removing subsidies on energy, fertilizers, pesticides and other agro-chemicals is considered an essential management approach. Current subsidies on water and energy amount to at least \$25 billion a year and need to be phased out, WBN

ACI says new tariff will be an extra burden

AMMAN (STAR)—The new tariff in Jordan, enforced this month, is part of a package of customs and tax reforms that have been underway for some years now. The aim of these reforms continues to be the creation of a better and larger environment for local and foreign investment. The exemption of production earnings and the insurance of 30-50 percent protection of national products were on top of the list of demands put before the legislators of the new code. As these basic requirements were not met by the new tariff, the Amman Chamber of Industry issued an analytical statement of the impact of the tariff on Jordanian industries.

The statement points that 438 commodities are covered by the new tariff. Reduction is the objective of the new adjustments covering almost 342 commodities. Some 84 items of the former tariff have been relinquished for various reasons. However, the statements draws the attention to certain remarks:

First, the new tariff limits the customs fees by 50 percent, except for saloon cars where they declined from 125-320 percent to 70-200 percent.

Second, the customs reduction has great negative effects on national industries as it covers foreign products which has similar items in Jordan. Examples include:

- a) Marble stones: Reduction ranges between 150-50 percent, thus granting a better position than the locally manufactured. Protection in these areas fall down by 100 percent.
- b) Cosmetics: reduction falls between 100-50 percent.
- c) Air conditions: between 100-50 percent.
- d) Satellite dishes and electrical chandeliers: between 100-50 percent.
- e) Television sets, micro-

waves and waterboilers: between 85-50 percent.

f) chocolate, chewing gum and biscuits between 30-10 percent.

On the other hand, the statement also sites the positive impact of the new tariff, though it covers a very limited number of commodities, such reductions cover:

First, raw materials considered necessary for certain national industries ranging between 80-50 percent.

Second, water pumps, engine fuel, trucks and spare parts, between 30-10 percent.

Third, components of some industries (e.g. TV, Video) between 25-10 percent, whereas customs reduction on

TV sets ranges between 85-50 percent.

Nevertheless, there is close interaction between the new tariff and the sales tax. Bearing in mind that the latter is subject to the value of the imported commodity plus custom duties and other fees, it will, therefore, be affected both positively and negatively in accordance with the reduction or increase of customs. A simple mathematics calculation in this regard makes the national marble industry, for instance, lose protection from 150 to 50 percent, while it is directly affected by the reduction of sales tax on imports by 54-34 percent.

The ACI concludes that the disadvantages of the new tariff outweigh its advantages as far as national industry is concerned.

Reductions by 25-10 percent on the earnings of the TV industry, for instance, is good but reductions on similar imported goods are higher (eg 85-50 percent). Reduction of custom duties 50-30 percent on our marble stones is matched by 150-50 percent reduction on manufactured marble. This means that national industry will lose its protection that it has already gained, and thus will be exposed to recession;

The new tariff does not stipulate that in its present and future adjustments it will

ensure protectionism through a 'fixed internal draw back' system.

Reduction in protectionism should be supplied in a gradual manner (a long-term process): the GATT, for instance, has accepted a 10-year period in this regard, thus allowing local industry enough time for adaptation and technological renewals.

Despite customs reduction on cars, the latter continue to pay the sales tax and other fees up to 27 percent. This does not help the transport sector and would not help resolve or develop the traffic system in Jordan.

Getting set for the holiday merry-go-round

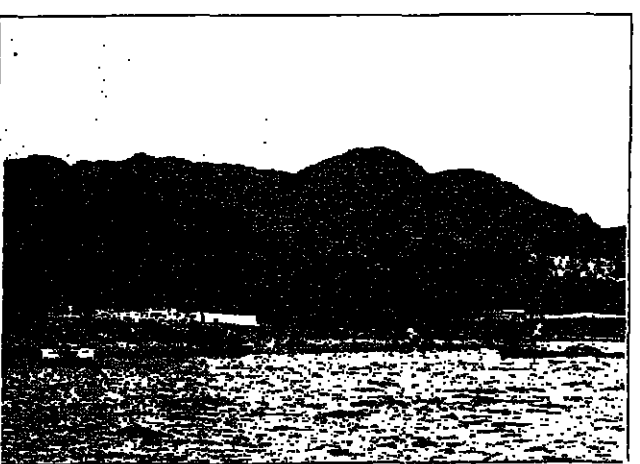
LIGHT SHIMMERS underwater along teeming cliffs of coral reef, then sweeps over miles of white sand. Shadows etch the stark contours of the Sinai mountains that tower like the backdrop for a Biblical epic. The Red Sea beach is dramatically beautiful. It's warm. It offers more than 350 perfect tanning days a year.

So how come no one you know has taken a vacation there yet?

Until recently, fear was a good reason. War zones don't lure tourists. And along the Gulf of Aqaba at this northern tip of the Red Sea, the decades-old battle lines and borders between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia all converge. The 1967 Arab-Israeli war

began at the Gulf's entrance. Bomb craters and rusting barbed wire still marked the site. It wasn't until the peace process took hold that tourism companies had the confidence to break ground here. But now the momentum looks unstoppable. Arab generals are shedding their uniforms and speculating in beachfront properties.

Groves of construction cranes have sprung up along the desert coast. And even as it signed a treaty with Jordan in October, Israel was promoting "The Free Tourism Zone of the Red Sea Riviera." The idea is to market a climate of peace—as well as the sun. Already the region's political troubles are out of sight, out of mind and out of the advertising. The brochures suggest you'll be visit-



ing not Jordan or Israel, but this newfound republic of fun. Farther down the coast, you're relaxing in "South Sinai," not braving terrorism-tainted Egypt.

There were only five hotels in 1988 in Egypt's Sharm El Sheikh, but developers are so confident of its potential that there will be 40 by the end of 1995. In Jordan, the biggest projects are a few miles farther inland, where the ancient ruins of Petra are carved out of sandstone cliffs. At least five major new hotels are under construction there and an abandoned Ottoman village has been turned into a mountaintop resort. But the greatest growth is scheduled for the Israeli port of Eilat: expected to double or even triple in size, with as many as 20,000 hotel rooms by the end of the decade.

The irony, of course, is that war is what kept most Red Sea reefs and beaches pristine all these years. These virgin splendors may now be overwhelmed. Close to overcrowded Eilat much of the coral already is dead. Egypt and Jordan have dismal environmental records, and garbage is a persistent problem. The

ubiquitous plastic bags that blow across the desert can settle on a reef and destroy it. Other Egyptian beach resorts have turned into badly planned agglomerations of sleaze and slime.

But with rare foresight Cairo has designated more than 50 percent of its Gulf of Aqaba shore as "protected area," including a national park managed with help from the European Union. Cleanup efforts are underway, and strict controls have been put on sewage disposal, desalination plants and other potential blights. A \$100 million resort built by Italian investors even has a specially designed floating pier with pools and decks suspended beyond the edge of the reef so people can get from the beach into the water without injuring the coral. Hotel manager Gabriel Mass Vera says there was resistance to the plan at first, but now "the floating pool, this is our big star." After benefiting from the blessings of war, the Red Sea Riviera may even survive the ravages of peace.

Business Chronicle

NOC, necessary to replace NRA

Like many other strategic commodities, oil is an effective source of revenue for any state budget. be it a producing or a consuming country. Many of the Middle East countries are oil producers; Jordan is in the initial stages of extracting this valuable resource. The Director-General of Jordan's Natural Resources Authority (NRA), Dr Fakhr Al Din Daghestani, said that "only 14 percent (10,000 square kilometers) of the country's sedimentary rock areas—where potential oil exists—have been drilled since 1981." He added that "between 4500-5500 sq km are still not excavated yet."

Despite the fact that NRA has already dug 76 oil wells in the last 13 years, Dr Daghestani said "the pace of the process is slow, and if it continues at this rhythm, the excavation will take some 60 years."

Jordan needs an efficient oil exploration plan to drill up to nine wells per year, instead of the present four well annually. NRA is considered incapable of carrying out this task and, therefore, many in the oil industry included Dr Daghestani have called for the setting up of a privatized "National Petroleum Company." Such a company "would be able to attract outside investment and foreign companies for oil excavation," he said. "Though soft provisions, concession and facilities to foreign companies need to be offered initially," they could be revised at a later stage as the first fruits are picked up. This is the case of Syria and Yemen," Dr Daghestani added.

Eight foreign companies so far have been involved in excavation in Jordan. However, their two wells per year dug by each is not good enough. Dr Daghestani said "we need to move much more quickly in order to excavate the oil resource." NRA and foreign companies have conducted sophisticated surveys at a cost of \$60 million in an area of 33000 km (almost one-third of Jordan's land area). But, he said the results still need to be further analyzed and not kept on the shelves. Nearly 60,000 sq. km of Jordan's sedimentary rock regions are awaiting excavation.

As for the Dead Sea area, Dr Daghestani said there are signs of oil in 12 different locations. He said this means that: Oil is generated underground and gradually leaked up to the surface. As it evaporates, stratum of asphalt, and the like, remain. The whole process is the result of a lack of rocky coverage which duly prevent the leakage; and generation and accumulation of oil deep in the underground, and leaks up to the surface under high pressure.

Counting on these, Dr Daghestani said, Israel has dug several deeper wells in the western coast of the Dead Sea. As yet, no oil has been discovered in commercial standards. On the other hand, NRA dug in 1993 and 1994 two wells one of which produced oil mixed with brackish water.

NRA is now drilling a third well at 2900 metres deep. So far, no positive results have been achieved. A foreign oil company confirmed that there is oil potential in this area, but the cost of excavation will be high, at \$10 million, and is only for 600 meters. To dig deeper is "beyond the technical and financial capabilities of NRA," Dr Daghestani pointed out.

CBJ—No to Israeli banks in Jordan

The exchange in banking and financial services between Jordan and Israel is an issue that can only be discussed within the framework of normalization of relations between the two countries and peoples.

Enthusiasts on both sides see immediate financial services and deals to be made as the result of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. Israelis advocate the opening of branches of Israeli banks in Jordan, and the dealing with the shekel just like any other foreign currency.

But so far it seems that Jordanians have rejected the whole idea. They argue that normalization is still too early, precisely because its absence is too deep-rooted. For them, though political prerequisites for such normalization are not fully met by the peace treaty, there are still the historical, psychological and attitude reasons which adamantly block confidence building.

The clear cut stand of Jordan's Central Bank (CBJ) not to allow Israeli and other foreign banks to establish new branches in Jordan on the one hand, and allowing dealing with the Israeli shekel while subjecting its price to supply and demand on the other, almost satisfies both sides, though from different angles.

The CBJ has its own reasons for doing that. It is arguing that the Jordan market is too small to absorb new banks, and that the already existing national and foreign banks in the country are sufficient to meet the needs and offer the proper services to the local population.

Moreover, the Central Bank refrained from fixing the price of the Israeli shekel as that would reluctantly commit money exchangers to a rate they would not accept. Therefore, the shekel's price would be subject to the free market. At the same time, the Central Bank said it would not oblige local banks to deal with shekel as the latter is obviously a weak currency and non-convertible in world markets.

Palestinians haunted by detentions

Continued from page 2

was taken to an interrogation room where he was told, "tell us who your friends are and we will let you go. I am ready to help you if you confess, but if you don't, we are ready to kill you."

"I felt alone. I was hit constantly and forced to sit hooded and tied to a chair for days at a time," Abu Khaled told The Star. "I didn't confess to anything and this agitated my interrogators. When they became frustrated that I didn't admit to anything, they stood me up and put me in a small closet, my hood still intact. As the door shut, I heard the interrogators laugh. In this closet, there was no room to move and every time I just about fell asleep, someone would pound on the door to wake me up. This continued for about seven days. During this time I felt isolated from the rest of the world as if I didn't exist."

He was taken again to the interrogation room and asked once again, "what did you do and who are your friends?"

"I knew that someone had turned my name into the Israeli authorities and though there was no proof that I was guilty of anything, sometimes collaborators give false information just to get money. The interrogators are aware of this and know many of their victims are innocent of any criminal actions, but I knew that if I didn't confess I would be tortured again."

"Sometime later, I was taken into a place called the 'Bird Room.' In this room, everyone looked relaxed. A man got up and offered me a cigarette. The place looked nice and someone else even offered me something to eat. The inmates looked friendly and they started asking me what feats had I accomplished and how did I get caught."

But Abu Khaled had already heard about the Bird Room from others and knew that it was just another trick to get him to confess so he said nothing. After six months of detention, without trial, he was released. Not long after, his twin brother died a martyr. He was killed resisting the Military Occupation. Abu Khaled always carries a picture of his martyred brother with him wherever he goes. He is now a student at a university in Jordan and hopes to get a degree and make something substantial out of his life. One thing for certain, he will never forget his torture, his detention or his suffering under the Israeli Occupation. Some scars never heal though they may not show.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 28 Dec. 1994		
	Buy JD	Sell JD
US\$	0.783	0.785
DM	108.29	108.83
GBP	0.444	0.446
SP	0.526	0.591
YEN	0.128	0.129
YEN (100)	0.699	0.702
DEM	0.397	0.399
LYR (100)	0.0428	0.0430

MARKET WATCH 24-27 Dec.

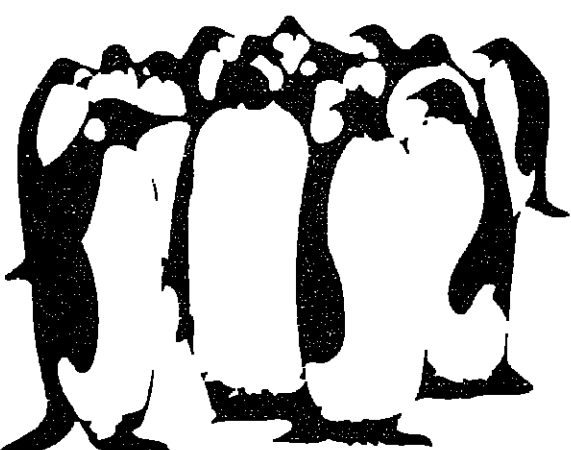
Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
↑ Jordan Petroleum ↑ Jordan Hotels & Tourism ↑ Mineral Spa		↑ Jordan Marketing Corp. ↑ National Insurance ↑ Mineral Spa		↑ Aladdin Industries ↑ Mineral Spa ↑ Al-Raf		↑ Jordan Marketing Corp. ↑ Multi Industries ↑ Mineral Spa	
↓ 4.44 ↓ 4.13 ↓ 5.00		↓ 5.19 ↓ 5.00 ↓ 4.76		↓ 5.06 ↓ 5.05 ↓ 5.02		↓ 5.29 ↓ 5.27 ↓ 4.81	
↑ 3.75 ↑ 3.27 ↑ 3.06		↑ 4.80 ↑ 3.94 ↑ 3.70		↑ 3.49 ↑ 2.63 ↑ 2.41		↑ 4.05 ↑ 3.13 ↑ 2.75	
General Price Pointer 143,920		143,760		143,250		143,500	
Trade Volume JD 1008963		JD 462639		JD 1413394		1415095	
Stock Volume 471725		329133		481152		583282	
Highest Traded Stocks		None		None		None	
ME & Commerce Bank JD 272,775		Commercial Facilities JD 86,385		None		None	

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

Newsweek

AROUND TOWN



His beatitude, the patriarch Michael Sabah spraying holy water at mass during Christmas Day in the Square of the Nativity in Bethlehem.



Preserving age-old traditions

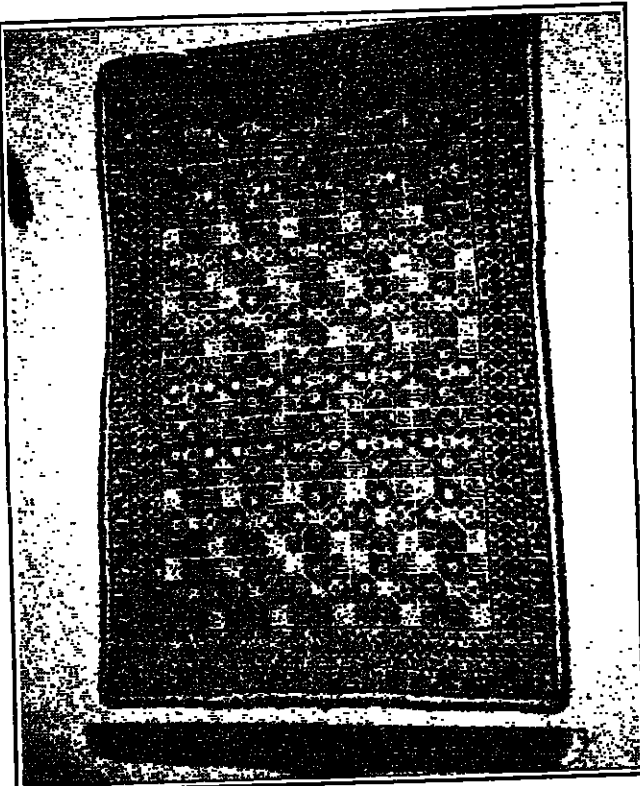
By E. Yagi
Special to The Star

WHAT DOES a key and a cross stitching have in common? And what does two different cultures share? How can two people from completely different backgrounds ever unite together in a successful partnership of marriage?

The Nuseibeh household is a palace of culture where husband and wife have blended in matrimonial harmony two different worlds to form a unique and exquisite domain in which reigns artistic talent combined with the domestic ties of husband and wife. On the one hand is Mr Nuseibeh, a very successful businessman who so happens to be not only talented but also the backbone behind his wife's creative hobby as well as the inheritor of the legacy of the Muslim family in Jerusalem that holds the key to the Holy Sepulchre Church from the time of Omar Bin Al Khatab.

The key was entrusted to the Nuseibeh family to stop the bickering between the different Christian sects. Consequently, every day, Mr Nuseibeh's brother locks and unlocks the door for the church believed by Christians to be the place of Prophet Jesus' tomb. On holy days, such as Christmas or Easter, several different Christians sects hold, simultaneously, services within this ancient and holy church. Thus, the Nuseibeh family has been entrusted with this centuries-old key as a means of keeping peace between various Christian sects.

To the west of this holy site, in the old yet modern city of Amman, the keykeeper's brother, Mr Nuseibeh, his wife and son reside. Mrs Rumiana Nuseibeh, a native Bulgarian, preserves a tradition of her own with the dedication and skill of a professional artist and as a painter paints a great work of art, she selects bold bright colors and using a fine point needle with even finer thread, creates works with dexterity



and identity impressive to art lovers everywhere. However cultivated and refined her work is, only professional crossstitchers and embroiders can truly appreciate the tremendous effort she puts into any piece she undertakes.

When asked why she chose such an exacting and time consuming hobby in addition to her profession as a career woman, she told *The Star*, "Well, it all started when I paid a trip to Tel Aviv on a visit to Jerusalem. In a store display window there, I noticed a cross-stitched piece done apparently by a Palestinian woman but designed by an Israeli artist. When I asked how much the piece cost I was informed that it was around \$3000. Of course, I knew that the woman who had sewn this article used a pattern and colors untrue to the customary ones and probably got a little money for her effort. It was then I decided that I must do

something to help preserve traditional Palestinian cross-stitching."

Thus began a lifelong dedication to produce with polish and grace pieces that fill her home which is as impressive as any art gallery. "My husband and son support my efforts and always encourage me. In fact, many designs and colors are created or chosen by my husband. I could never have done all this work without him. My son loves my sewing, and is involved in it too," she said.

Couches are strewn with her stitched cushions. Pictures, some cross stitching, others petit point embroidery, adorn walls throughout the Nuseibeh home. Runners and coasters abound on shelves enhanced by decorative ornaments. To top things off, Mrs Nuseibeh even embroidered her own chairs and some foot stools. First she did the needlework and then sent the pieces to an upholsterer who fitted them onto

wooden frames. Two, which are deep rose offset by varied colored flowers strikingly set off the already esthetic room as precious gems flatter a famous art collection.

A few of Mrs Nuseibeh's pieces are pure Bulgarian, the rest, Palestinian cross stitching using either traditional colors and designs or a blend of the traditional mixed with vivid pastels merging the ancient with the contemporary. Asked if she could detect the different designs of the traditional Palestinian *thobes* she replied, "Of course, every Palestinian village has its own particular colors and design. In fact by such markings, anyone who knows Palestinian stitching would know where a woman comes from by the *thobe* she is wearing."

Mrs Nuseibeh never lines any of her runners or coasters because being such a perfectionist, the back of her work is as neat and precise as the front. "A true professional keeps the inside of her sewing as neat as the outside," she stated.

Young Ala', the Nuseibehs' son, will inherit therefore, not only the key to the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem, but a rich legacy of beautiful works of art, faithfully sewn by a woman who endeavors to preserve a part of the past. Some pieces consist of more than 100 different colors and thousands of tiny stitches. And as Mrs Nuseibeh states, "My sewing occupies many hours of my time and is a comfortable and rewarding hobby enabling me to do my part in preserving a beautiful tradition."

Who says mixed marriages don't work? A blend of taste, two connoisseurs from previously different worlds, successfully converge into a prosperous marriage sharing and building their lives together as a team in their palace of culture they call home. ■



Adam's Apple is the place to be

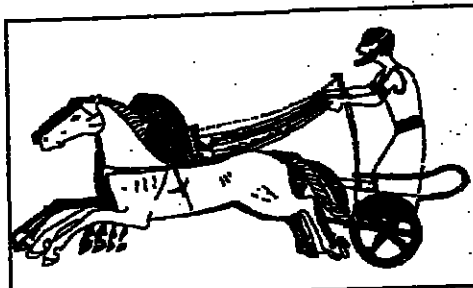
THE ADAM'S Apple Cafe Restaurant is the first in Jordan to offer delicious South American cuisine. The owners say "although there are many restaurants in Jordan, we aim to offer nothing but the best in food, deliciously new to the discerning palate." The partners told *The Star* that "we believe we have all the tools and means that would lead to success, but we shall have to wait and see" adding that "we leave it to the connoisseur to decide that."

The special cuisine presented by Adam's Apple is a creation of recipes unlikely to be found in any other place in town. It also provides a wide range of fresh juices to help compliment the unique cuisine. Visiting Adam's Apple will provide you with a unique experience. ■

SWISS TIMING: the relay race Los Angeles 1932 - Atlanta 1996

IN ATLANTA, Swatch will be appearing as a top-class athlete and as the youngest member of a victorious team. A team called Swiss Timing, represented by SMH brands Omega and Longines, which can look back on a glorious past as official timekeepers at most of the Olympic Games and numerous other sporting events. With a total of 20 Olympic Games under its belt and a major player in the development of the chronometer, Omega holds the all-time record. In Atlanta, Swatch will be able to draw on the wide-ranging expertise and the ultramodern electronic equipment of two SMH subsidiaries.

Swiss Timing and Omega Electronics, which guarantee precision to thousands of a second. In 1932 Omega was assigned the prestigious job of developing the official time-keeping equipment for the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Over the years the research and development work carried out by Omega and Longines, two SMH subsidiaries, has made a decisive contribution towards the enormous advances in timing technology. Jesse Owens and other great Olympic champions of the past would hardly believe their eyes if they could see the latest fraction of a second. Armed with this equipment, Swiss Timing, represented by Swatch, will be able to measure the athletes' performances at the 1996 summer Olympic Games in Atlanta to an accuracy of a thousandth of a second, which today can mean all the difference between winning a medal and coming away empty-handed. Incidentally, the spectacular technological developments that have helped make Swiss Timing a household word for absolute precision all over the world can be seen at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. ■



Leila Kawash

A painter with profoundness

By Harry Pullens
Special to The Star

LEILA KAWASH'S art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Center does inevitably stir the mind and the heart. Kawash's painter's brush tells a story of profoundness and imagination. Its intensively transforms pale canvases into thought and expression.

Kawash is a painter of international repute. Born in Baghdad in 1945 to an American mother and Iraqi father she developed an interest in art at an early age. She was educated in art design both in England and the United States.

Her artistic work has been exhibited in at least seven States in the US, including in the Atrium of the International Monetary Fund, in Europe and in the Arabian Gulf. She has also won several laurels in organized competitions.

Her style is distinctive and a cross between a rhythmic and geometric perspectives that is enhanced by an unusual sense of color and imagery. The images she creates on canvas combine visual impressions, symbols, lyrics, configurations and colors of her Iraqi heritage. She is able to intertwine these and project them with a touch of sensitivity to the viewers, an ability she developed in the US, a country she resides in.

Her work in this exhibit clearly demonstrate her ability for sensitive artistic synthesis, which draws heavily on Arab calligraphy dating from the 9th century.

Her work which depicts the powerful foundation of tradition that form the basis of contemporary society is both abstract and complex. Its style originated in America, but it clearly shows energy and vibrance. The collage refers to

20th century influence of Picasso and Braque. This Arabic calligraphy she frequently uses reflects the European artistic tradition. In some work calligraphy is formed by figurative representations of eastern architectural forms.

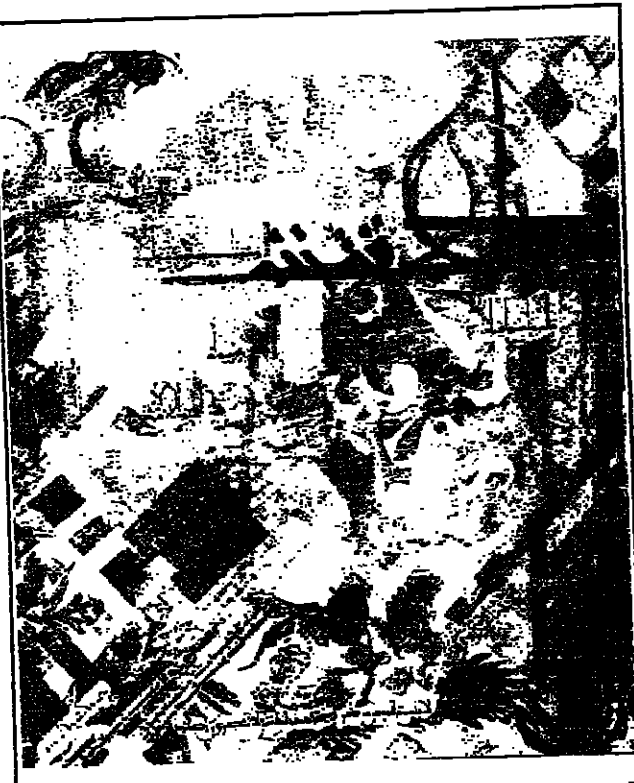
In others it interweaves with segments of abstract collage which explore the visual and textual representation of the musical rhythms and echoes.

Kawash has been able to offer visitors to her exhibition a painting of her two worlds both the US and Iraq; "The US, the proponent of UN sanctions, and Iraq the weary sufferer of those sanctions." Her most recent manuscript series were inspired by her experience as an Iraqi-American during the Gulf War.

She has also, through colors, been able to reflect the desert in Iraq, the autumn in Washington and the blue of the Mediterranean.

This juxtaposition of her two heritage convey a complicated and wide-ranging array of emotions and moods.

"These paintings represent conceptual expression of her distant heritage. It is not always easy for me as an artist to explain what each painting is supposed to convey or why it has taken a particular form or color. Each painting is a translation on canvas of the feelings that were aroused in me by some symbols of the past. The voice of the muezzin chanting over the rooftops from the mosques, the lyrics that are so expressive of the way of life...these and the societies they represent are thousands of miles away," she said. She also stressed that the colors encompass the past and present. "Sometimes the echoes of the past are uncovered, bare and bold, other



times, there is a veneer of black attempting to cover them, but the vibrancy still shines through."

The reason for her immense success has been her great work of industry and constant

strive to achieve a feeling of sitting through layers of sand beneath which lies an endless legacy of culture and images.

This exhibition will continue till 31st December. ■



مجموعة كاي
KAIS GROUP



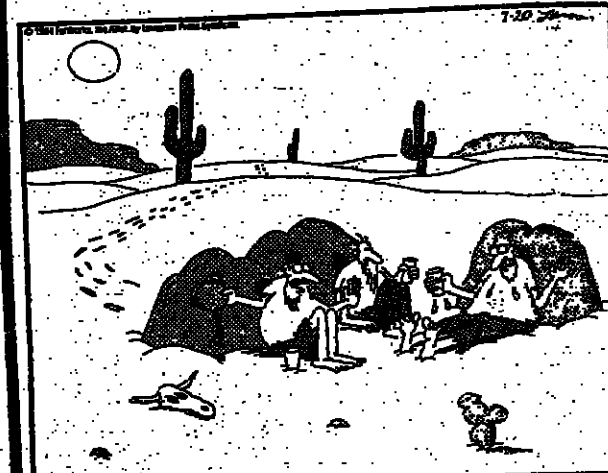
● The management and staff of Kais Group and Kareman Janard Boudique, represented by their general managers Dr Fawzi Saadeddin and Mrs Kareman Saadeddin wish to convey their sincere and warm wishes to all their families, friends and clients on the New Year, wishing them all happiness and success.

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



The crew of the Starship Enterprise encounters the floating head of Zsa Zsa Gabor.



Executioner understudies



Executioner understudies



Executioner understudies

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ The works of Mahmud Obeidi will continue to be shown at Darat al Funun till 15 January.

■ Leila Kawash art exhibition titled "Crossing" will continue till 31 December at the RCC.

■ The works of Ismail and Tamam Shamout at the Shoman Foundation will continue to be exhibited until 6 January.

■ The French Cultural Centre will hold exhibitions, film shows, lectures, throughout January.

Films

■ On Her Majesty's Secret

Service will be shown at the British Council on Wednesday, 4 January at 7pm.

■ You Only Live Twice will be shown at the British Council on Wednesday 11 January at 7:00pm.

■ Triple feature films: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, Winnie the Pooh, the Bluster Day and the Wind in the Willows, will be shown at the American Cultural Center on Thursday 29 December at 5:00pm.

■ The Life of Leonardo Da Vinci (Part I) will be showing at Darat al Funun on

January at 5:30pm.

The Star's Guide

Programs on JTV
from 31 Dec. — 6 Jan.

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

7:30—Harry and the Hendersons: A thief sneaks into the house while George and the family are away.
8:00—Innovation
9:10—Quantum Leap
10:00—Murder She Wrote
10:30—News at Ten
10:30—Feature Film: Cocktail, starring Tom Cruise and Elisabeth Shue
11:55—Countdown to the New Year
12:00—A Rock Concert: Foreigner

WEDNESDAY

7:30—Home Improvement
8:00—Life in the Freezer
8:30—Quantum Leap: Sam takes on the character of a woman charged with murder.
9:15—Law and Order
10:00—News at Ten
10:20—Snowy River
11:10—Coming of Age

SUNDAY

7:30—Galactica
8:15—The Album Show
9:15—The Hidden Room: Klaira is in love following her husband's death
9:30—Heartbeat
10:00—News at Ten
10:20—Feature Film: Miles From Home, starring Richard Gere
12:00—The Upper Hand

MONDAY

7:30—Black Beauty
8:00—Street Hawk
9:10—Shades of LA: Detective Michael is led by a ghost to solve many court cases.
10:00—News at Ten
10:20—Flight Into Hell
11:00—Intermezzo: (The best in Jazz)

TUESDAY

7:30—Practical Guide to the Universe: A look at how the major components of our planet chemically react to ensure continuity of life.
8:00—The Detectives

THURSDAY

7:30—NBA
8:30—Road to Avonlea
9:10—The Hat Squad
10:00—News at Ten
10:20—Feature Film: Sky-lark, the unique story of a mail-order bride.
11:10—The Exile

FRIDAY

7:30—Stuntmakers
8:00—African Skies
8:30—You Bet Your Life
9:00—PM Magazine
9:30—Heart of Courage
10:00—News at Ten
10:20—Blanch
11:00—Never The Twain

PROGRAMMES FRANÇAIS SAMEDI

5:00—Pollards
5:30—Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Les intrepides
6:30—Le journal
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Fa utipus reversa

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Tom Cruise in Cocktail, Saturday at 10:30.

DIMANCHE

5:00—Pollards
5:30—Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Montagne
6:30—Les intrepides
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Ushuaia

LUNDI

5:00—Pollards
5:30—Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Flamco Road
6:30—Les intrepides
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Magazine sportif

MARDI

5:00—Pollards
5:30—Que le meilleur gagne
6:00—Embarquement porte 1
6:30—Verities
7:00—Le journal
7:15—Ushuaia Magazine

MERCREDI

5:00—Diplodo
5:30—Thalassa
6:30—Musique sans frontières
7:00—Le journal
7:45—E-M6

JEUDI

5:00—Diplodo
5:30—Jaina, episode 1
7:00—Le journal
7:45—Planète en equation

VENDREDI

2:00—Pif et hercule cartoon
2:10—L'école des fans
2:30—Le monde est à vous
4:00—L'appareur
6:00—A year in the life
7:00—Le journal
7:45—Ushuaia Magazine

ROCK TRACK

By Stacy Jenel Smith

Liverpool sponsored its annual Beatles convention last month amid local tabloid headlines about the 76-year-old uncle of the late John Lennon, Charlie Lennon, living in poverty with nary a tuppence of help from John's \$600 million-plus estate.

According to the Liverpool Echo — which also ran a photo spread of the youngest brother of John's father Freddie in his tiny, Beate memorabilia-bedecked flat — Yoko Ono recently sent Charlie a card wishing him well, but offering no assistance. The Echo quoted Mike McCartney, brother of Paul, as saying, "People are too busy making a buck to think of old dears like Charlie."

Reportedly never a hanger-on, Charlie made unpaid appearances at convention events. The paper quoted Yoko Ono's New York attorney, Peter Shukat, as saying, "This is a matter between Yoko and himself."

If you like the look of Naomi Campbell's first video from her new Epic "Babywoman" album, you have U2 to thank.

Campbell, of course, was famously engaged to U2 member Adam Clayton for nearly a year — that's almost like forever in Naomi relationship time. (Robert De Niro, Mike Tyson, Sylvester Stallone, Eric Clapton — the list of her exes could almost fill Texas.) The engagement broke up, and then came the rumors of her involvement with Sean Penn.

Well, being in with the U2 crowd all that time paid off. Naomi got famed rock photographer/video director Anton Corbijn to lens her video. Corbijn has been closely associated with U2 for years, having directed several of their videos and having created the much-copied grainy look of their "Joshua Tree" video and album photos. In fact, Jon Bon Jovi got Corbijn to direct for him — "hoping that some of the U2 aura would rub off," says a wag inside the U2 camp. Bon Jovi may not be guilty of such hopes, but Naomi's another story.

It's almost too obvious. As soon as Pearl Jam parted company with drummer Dave Abbruzzese, the rumors started to swirl that he would be replaced by Dave Grohl of Nirvana. Grohl and bassist Krist Novoselic have been in a sort of limbo state since their leader, Kurt Cobain, committed suicide. Last month, in fact, the two had to quit work on what was intended to be a live double album of Nirvana — instead making it a single live disc of the group's "Unplugged" gig — finding it too emotionally difficult to deal with.

Anyway, someone was bound to put Grohl together with Pearl Jam simply by virtue of the fact that Nirvana and P. Jam are/were the two leading grunge bands of the world.

Cinema

STARTING THIS WEEK: "THE LAND BEFORE TIME II: THE GREAT VALLEY ADVENTURE" (MCA/Universal, \$19.98)

Made directly for the video market, this sequel to the original animated adventure follows Littlefoot and his young dinosaur friends as they brave the mysterious part of their world that they encountered briefly the first time around. Featuring music by The Roches, the film is packaged with re-usable stickers for youngsters. ** (G)

"THE ENDLESS SUMMER II" (New Line, \$97.84): In filmmaker Bruce Brown's sequel to his 1960s classic, surfers continue to seek the "perfect" wave. In this case, the surfers are Robert "Wingnut" Weaver and Patrick O'Connell, and their quest provides for plenty of very scenic atmosphere ... since their stops include Fiji, Hawaii, Alaska and Australia. They encounter perils including African lions. *** (PG: P)

"THE DESPERATE TRAIL" (Turner, \$89.98): A very solid staple of the Western genre in recent years, Sam Elliott ("Conagher," "The Sacketts") returns to the saddle in this saga, playing a dedicated lawman determined to recapture the female prisoner (Linda Fiorentino, lately of "The Last Seduction") who escaped from him. Craig Sheffer ("A River Runs Through It") appears as her resourceful cohort. ** (R: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "BLOWN AWAY" (MGM/UA, \$97.51): Former comrades become adversaries — with Boston as the canvas for their inevitable showdown — in director Stephen Hopkins' well-told thriller. Jeff Bridges plays a police officer who largely has escaped his dark past ... except for a bomb-expert terrorist (Tommy Lee Jones) who has targeted him; Bridges' father Lloyd, Forest Whitaker and Suzy Amis co-star. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"I LOVE TROUBLE" (Touchstone, \$97.51): Julia Roberts and Nick Nolte are teamed in this comedy-adventure as rival reporters who compete for scoops on the same story ... but when murder enters the picture, they reluctantly join forces to expose a fraud scheme within a major corporation. Ultimately (and inescapably), their mutual animosity softens; Saul Rubinek and Robert Loggia also are featured. ** (PG: AS, P, V)

COMING SOON: "THE SHADOW" (MCA/Universal, Jan. 17): Alec Baldwin plays the classic hero "who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men" in this action saga. (PG-13)

"TRIAL BY JURY" (Warner, Jan. 17): Joanne Whalley-Kilmer ("Scarlett") plays a threatened juror; Armand Assante, Gabriel Byrne and William Hurt co-star. (R)

"WOLF" (Columbia/TriStar, Jan. 17): Jack Nicholson plays an oppressed man whose personality changes after a wolf bite; Michelle Pfeiffer also stars. (R)

FAMILY VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

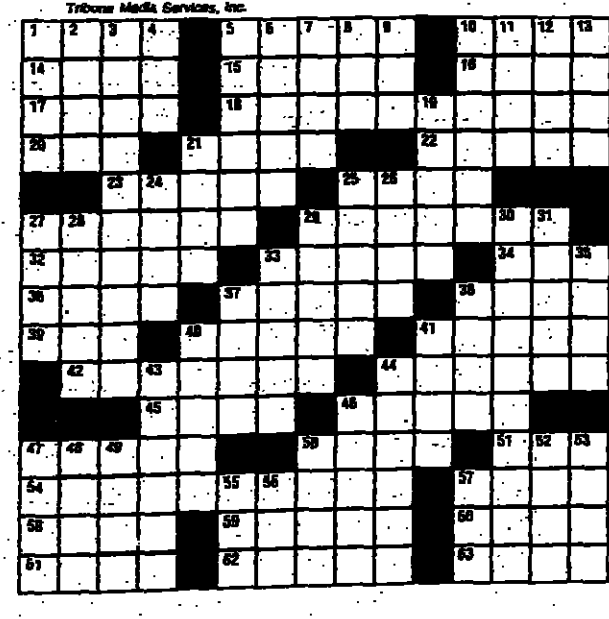
1 Eternal
3 Bone fruit
10 Pastel display
14 Declare openly
15 Shout of joy
16 Jewelry stone
17 Affair
18 Opera singer
20 Paid athlete
21 Carrot
22 Pigment
23 River in France
25 Whiskey
27 Travel money
28 Laugh in exultation
32 Bottomless gulf
33 Illusion model of a garment
34 Anger
35 Riddle

DOWN

37 N. Eng. state
38 Anchor
39 Barbara
40 Singer
41 Simon
42 Bear-like animal
43 Extra helping
44 Complaint
45 Long of politics
46 Hose
47 Cloudless
50 Scarier public tract
51 Body joint
54 Hall for set-teners
57 Travel money
58 Drizzle
59 Waltz, e.g.
60 Opera melody
61 Places
62 Go in
63 Writing table

ACROSS

37 Largest portion
38 Eat away
39 Above
40 Vehicle
41 Sheep
42 Stress
43 Long-distance device
44 Hockey disk
45 Petters
46 Onetime
47 Dressing
48 Freshwater fish
49 Hawaiian feast
50 Revise
51 1/2 quart
52 Rainbow
53 Painted hilltop
54 Lyric poem
55 West rapidly
57 Cruise



HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: Don't even try to do anything serious. People will be confused, or simply not paying attention, and conflicts could develop.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Casual remarks could start heated discussions. You love that sort of thing, but somebody might take offense.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Paperwork may interfere with other plans. Catch up on reading and writing, instead of fighting the crowds.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Too bad you don't have more money to play with. Focus on your work, there will be many interruptions.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Don't try to do everything yourself; delegate to a reliable friend. You can find more time to spend with your sweetie.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll find the answer to a work-related problem in a good book. Deal with a domestic problem. Don't avoid the issue.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Put in the effort, and save on a luxury item for the home. Spend these days with your sweetheart, exchanging notes.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Decorate your house. Shop for household items, and hold out for the best quality for your money.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're under pressure to do what you promised. Finish paperwork and return phone calls. You'll be ready to take on a new challenge.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Meet with friends and figure out what you're going to do next. You'll be too busy, finishing what you've already started. Avoid making decisions.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Expect disagreement from an authority figure and have your defense ready. Consultations with friends could lead to a breakthrough.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A long-distance call could be necessary to get a bothersome problem solved. You may have to go along with another person's wishes.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). To keep from going further into debt, get out of a bad deal. Comply with an older person's whims. It'll be more fun if you don't take yourself too seriously.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: You get to learn to negotiate. Compromise is a handy skill to acquire. Work with a team to maximize your efforts and achieve massive objectives.

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Bridge

By Tannah Hirsch

A Case for a Useless Discard

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 10 7 4 3

♥ Q J

♦ Q 7 5

♣ K 8 2

WEST

♠ A 5

♥ 9 6 4 3

♦ A 8 4 2

♣ 10 6 3

EAST

♠ 6 2

♥ A 8 5 2

♦ K 9 6 3

♣ 9 7 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q 9 8

♥ K 10 7

♦ J 10

♣ A Q J 5

The bidding:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♣

In an attempt to steal his contract, South indulged in a bit of fancy discarding. But there was no reason to buy the illusion when the reality was there for all to see.

The auction was straightforward. North planned to issue a game invitation until South responded with spades to his Stayman inquiry. He then decided that his five-card suit merited a direct raise to game—a questionable decision in view of his soft values.

West led his fourth-best heart. East won the ace and returned the suit. Declarer took his king and continued with the ten, discarding a club from dummy. Next, declarer led the king of trumps.

West grabbed the ace and, im-pressed by declarer's unseemly haste in taking a club discard, switched to the ten of clubs. Declarer won the king, drew the outstanding trumps and then discarded two of dummy's diamonds on high clubs. He was, therefore, able to ruff a diamond loser on the table, and ended up losing only one trick in each suit except clubs.

There was no good reason for West to be taken in by declarer's chicanery. His ace of diamonds would complete the book, so the defenders needed just one more trick to set the contract. Since declarer couldn't possibly get rid of two more clubs from dummy in a hurry, there was no need for the desperation shift to a club.

West should first have cashed the ace of diamonds. If East had no help in that suit, he would furnish a low diamond and there was still plenty of time to shift to a club. But if East held the diamond king ... Curtains.

WORD WISE

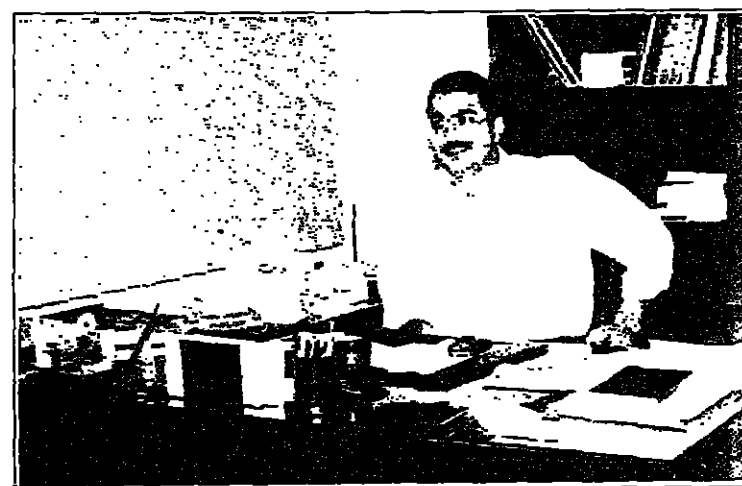
Q. Why do so many newspeople say "an historic occasion" and "an Hispanic"? It seems very awkward to me. I was taught to use "a" with consonant sounds and "an" with vowel sounds. Has that rule changed?

A. The news changed. Both the Associated Press stylebook, used by most news orga-

nizations, and contemporary pundits advise using "a" before words with consonant sounds or vowels that have the value of consonants, such as "a university" or "a historic" occasion.

Send questions or comments for Word Wise to P.O. Box 4367, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4367.

New year greetings



● The management and staff of Barakat Auto Service Center and Carriage Al-Arabah Rent A Car, represented by the General Manager Mr. Ala'a Haddad wishes to extend his congratulations to his family, friends and customers for the Christmas season and the New Year.

Music at Freddie's



Freddie's Workshop

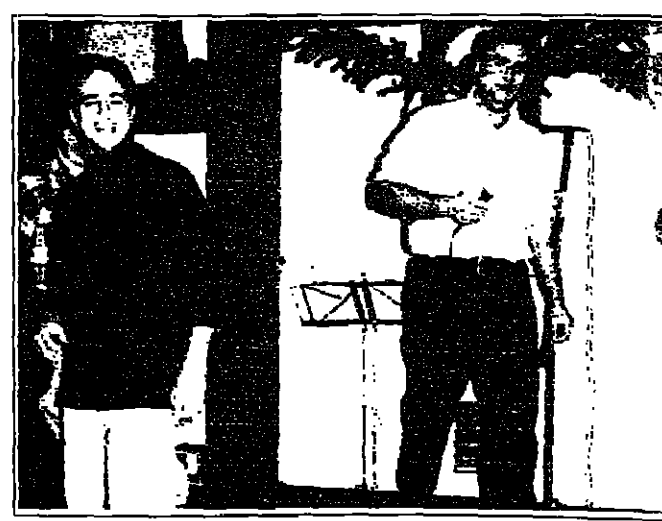


Freddie's in Al Ahlia Abella

● Music is taking such an important part of our society here in Jordan, and many are starting to learn music knowing that it will affect their souls and lives in such a beautiful way. Freddie For Music is a center designed to create this tradition. Its signs and billboards are everywhere on top of Safeways, in Abella, music concerts, schools and even in houses. "The name of our shop has become so familiar that whenever someone think of music, he would think of FREDDY FOR MUSIC."

Enjoying Winter in Al Qasr

● The management of Al Qasr hotel has organized a magnificent program for the winter season where the guests can actually enjoy a different atmosphere every day. There is Ladies Night every Sunday, Jazz Night every Friday, Dine with Free Wine every Saturday and Popular Karaoke Night every Monday. All these activities will take place in the Cellar, the famous restaurant bar. At Al Qasr, there is also Oscar's Club and Grill, and the popular garden, that is the talk of the town. Look out for Al Qasr surprises and programs in the coming weeks.



Crossword Puzzle

Across: 1. A word that means 'to be' (5 letters)
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FEELIN' FIT!

Healthy eating does not have to be bland. Most spices, if natural, contain nothing that is harmful to your system or your diet. However, you can experiment with the many spices and combinations thereof, adding flavor and variety to your diet.

Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

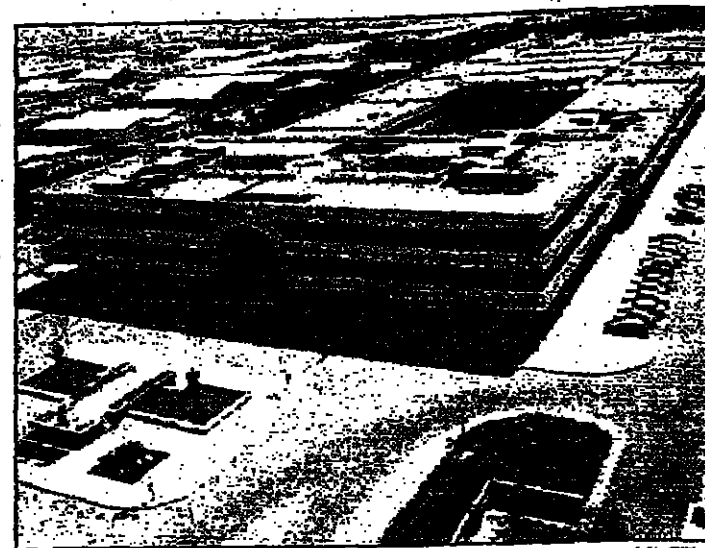
Les dividendes de la paix

LE PARTENARIAT économique du Caire s'est tenu du 6 au 8 décembre. Organisé à l'initiative de l'Union Européenne, il a permis aux PME du Vieux continent de rencontrer leurs homologues du Moyen-Orient. La réciprocité est également vraie. 1200 entreprises et 4000 hommes d'affaires ont ainsi pu échanger leurs points de vue au Centre de conférences du Caire. Un bon moyen pour comprendre les attentes et les besoins des différents partenaires.

Riad al Khouri, chef d'entreprise jordanien s'est rendu au Caire en tant que consultant économique national. Il considère plus ce partenariat comme une chance pour les pays du Moyen-Orient que comme une simple prise de contacts avec des PME européennes.

«J'ai la conviction que dans une dizaine d'années, les Etats-Unis auront cédé leur position de leader commercial dans la région. Nous en reviendrons alors à la situation d'avant la première guerre mondiale, le colonialisme en moins». Riad al Khouri fonde son enthousiasme sur ce constat: l'Allemagne est déjà au troisième rang des partenaires de la Jordanie, derrière l'Irak et les Etats-Unis. Il affirme que la France et les autres pays d'Europe ne sont pas loin derrière. Selon lui, le secteur privé jordanien ferait une erreur s'il faisait l'impasse sur cette opportunité.

Il peut dès à présent se rassurer. Européens et pays du Moyen-Orient ont déjà pris rendez-vous, le 15 janvier à Amman. Riad al Khouri estime que cette nouvelle rencontre est plus qu'une étape supplémentaire. Elle est la preuve que le partenariat est sur de bons rails.



Jordanie Express

PRIVATISATION. L'hôtel Inter-Continental d'Amman est en cours de privatisation. C'est ce qu'ont affirmé lundi des officiels jordaniens. 3.216.000 actions vont être mises sur le marché financier. Actuellement, le prix des actions est évalué autour de 6,4 dinars. La mise en vente par blocs ne devrait pas permettre aux particuliers d'y prendre part. Il s'agit néanmoins de la première privatisation d'un grand établissement pour lequel la participation de l'Etat était majoritaire.

COOPERATION. La chambre d'industrie d'Amman et celle de Jérusalem viennent d'arriver à un accord de principe qui devrait leur permettre de développer la coopération entre jordaniens et Palestiniens. Cet accord se manifestera dans un premier temps par la mise en place d'une banque de données, permettant d'échanger rapidement un grand nombre d'informations utiles aux deux parties. Un premier pas avant la signature d'un accord formel.

DEMENTI. Le ministre des affaires islamiques, Abdul Salam Al Abbadi a démenti mardi les affirmations rapportées par des médias étrangers. Selon ces derniers, les autorités jordaniennes auraient refusé de coordonner avec leurs homologues palestiniens le passage de pèlerins en provenance des territoires occupés sur leur sol. Le ministre a affirmé que la Jordanie offrait les plus grandes facilités aux pèlerins de Cisjordanie et de Gaza.

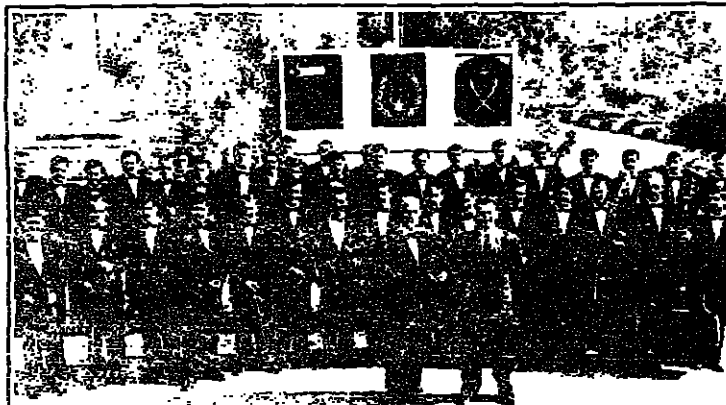
Concert Des militaires menés à la baguette

Mardi 3 janvier, l'Orchestre des forces armées jordaniennes donnera un concert de musique classique. Si les musiciens sont jordaniens, le chef d'orchestre, lui, est français. Jean-Philippe Rouchon est à Amman depuis début novembre avec une mission: faire de cet orchestre un «grand».

UN CHEF d'orchestre français vivant entre Vienne et Londres enseignant en allemand mais à Amman à des musiciens jordaniens. Voilà qui est pour réjouir le partisan du cosmopolitisme et le farouche promoteur du respect entre les Nations qu'est Jean-Philippe Rouchon. Le chef d'orchestre assure d'ailleurs que «la musique peut avoir un rôle sur la politique. La musique est aussi un acte politique, un langage, une autre expression qui va aussi dans le sens du rapprochement entre les peuples».

C'est dans cet esprit d'ouverture qu'aura lieu, mardi 3 janvier 1995 et sous la direction de Jean-Philippe Rouchon, un concert par l'Orchestre symphonique royal des forces armées jordaniennes. Et ce ne sera pas le seul. Trois autres concerts sont prévus d'ici à l'été 1995 (voir programme ci-dessous). La volonté affichée est de favoriser la musique classique: symphonique, lyrique et de ballet.

Première concrétisation d'ouverture de la collaboration entre le chef d'orchestre et l'armée jordanienne. Car Jean-Philippe Rouchon n'est là que depuis novembre. «Mon arrivée ici, explique-t-il, est due à un concours de circonstances». Le Palais royal souhaitait avoir à disposition un orchestre philharmonique de qualité internationale et l'un des premiers du Moyen-Orient. Pour cela, il a donc fallu recourir aux services d'un chef d'orchestre qui soit de taille. La demande est parvenue jusqu'au conservatoire de mu-



Jean-Philippe Rouchon et son orchestre.

sique de Boulogne-Billancourt (ville toute proche de Paris) où Jean-Philippe Rouchon fut élève.

Une commission jordanienne a examiné les candidatures, qui venaient de plusieurs pays, et a finalement choisi le Français. Son parcours plaident en sa faveur. Il a toujours été international. Après des études en France, Jean-Philippe Rouchon devient professeur. Il le restera pendant dix ans et à l'étranger. Le chef d'orchestre officiera aussi en Autriche et dans toute l'Europe centrale: l'Opéra de Prague en République tchèque, l'ex-Yugoslavie, orchestre de chambre à Bratislava en Slovaquie, l'homme travaille aussi à New York et à Londres où il prépare une discographie avec le Philharmonic orchestra of London.

Sa mission à Amman

n'empêche pas Jean-Philippe Rouchon de poursuivre ses activités internationales. «Pour tout concilier, confie-t-il, il faut beaucoup de travail, de concentration et d'organisation. Il faut surtout être bien secondé. Etre à la tête de plusieurs orchestres est une situation normale pour un chef d'orchestre». Ce qui est plus singulier, en revanche, est d'être responsable de l'un de ceux du Proche Orient. «C'est exceptionnel, s'enthousiasme-t-il. Je sors des sentiers battus. Je perçois cette mission comme une expérience insolite et unique».

D'autant que le musicien est grisé de se trouver au Proche Orient au moment où le contexte politique est si mouvant. «La musique, ajoute-t-il, peut avoir un rôle symbolique et politique. Présent à Amman, je

souhaite développer à fond cette idée, favoriser au travers de mon art, le rapprochement entre les pays».

«Cela me permet surtout de découvrir une autre culture et d'apporter la nôtre». L'orchestre jouera ainsi des musiques européennes et françaises. «Mon point d'honneur. Le fait que la plupart des musiciens de l'armée aient étudié à Vienne favorise les échanges culturels. Les répétitions se font en allemand et les musiciens manifestent beaucoup

d'enthousiasme. «Ils ont un potentiel extraordinaire, se réjouit le chef d'orchestre, et une vraie et belle volonté de jouer. Ils

manifestent une réelle disponibilité face à une culture occidentale qui n'est pas la leur. Ils apprennent même des mots en français pour venir vers moi». Une réelle volonté d'échange qui se manifeste également à travers la réceptivité des Jordaniens vis-à-vis de la musique européenne. Jean-Philippe Rouchon en veut pour preuve l'affluence remarquable lors de l'anniversaire du Roi, le 14 novembre dernier. Le concert donné à cette occasion avait réuni plus de 1 000 spectateurs.

Le chef d'orchestre français s'intéresse pour sa part à la musique arabe, mais il estime qu'elle n'est pas véritablement accessible pour un Occidental, car non écrite. Il s'agit peut-être simplement d'une autre conception de la musique. ■

Benoît Floch

Le programme des concerts 1995

3 janvier: Bizet, Beethoven, Brahms, Mozart.

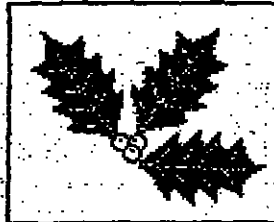
16 mars: Schubert, Rameau.

3 mai: Opéra de Mozart, Bastien et Bastienne.

21 juin: Concert donné à l'occasion de la Fête de la musique et de l'anniversaire de l'armée (10 juin). Le programme n'est pas encore défini.

Les concerts seront donnés sous la direction de Jean-Philippe Rouchon et par l'Orchestre symphonique royal des forces armées jordaniennes. Ils devraient avoir lieu au Centre culturel royal.

Bonne année!



Une très bonne année à Tatine Jeanine et Tonton Paul à Rieupeyroux dans l'Aveyron!

Ludovic

Le départ est la première étape de l'oubli.

Je pense à toi. Bonne Année.

Qui tu sais

Bonne Année Mohammed, merci pour ta gentillesse!

Happy New Year Marie!

Ludwig & Steve

Bonne année à toute la joyeuse équipe de la Radio jordanienne en français!

Joyeux Noël et bonne Année à Benoît!

Stéphan

Louis, je sais que tu te sens seul en ces périodes de fêtes. Je te souhaite donc très sincèrement une bonne et heureuse année 1995!

Louis

Et bien sûr, le Jourdain souhaite une bonne Année à tous ses lecteurs et à tous ses collaborateurs du Star! ■

Communiqué

L'ASSOCIATION médicale jordanienne-française (AMJF) a tenu récemment sa réunion annuelle pour examiner les activités de l'association et élire un nouveau comité de direction.

Cette association, constituée à la fin de 1990, a divers objectifs comme l'aide aux médecins francophones de Jordanie ou la constitution d'une bibliothèque médicale en français et arabe. Elle organise annuellement un congrès médical franco-jordanien où spécialistes des deux pays présentent et échanger leurs connaissances. Le but de ces congrès est de permettre aux professionnels jordaniens de profiter de l'expérience française et d'assurer l'avenir médical de la Jordanie.

L'AMJF a choisi le thème de la génétique médicale pour le prochain congrès qui doit se tenir en juin 1995. La génétique, sujet moderne où les progrès galopants suscitent beaucoup d'espoir pour l'avenir.

Le président d'honneur de l'association est le prince Raed Ben Zeid. L'association-sœur de l'AMJF en France est présidée par le professeur Jacques Millier et l'AMJF elle-même par le docteur Fathieh Saoudi.

Rentrant de France...

ALI KASSAY, étudiant jordanien, a passé trois ans en France pour y étudier les sciences politiques. Il est maintenant revenu en Jordanie pour y poursuivre une thèse. Il livre ses impressions à propos de la France.

Par rapport à l'image que vous vous faisiez de la France, avez-vous été déçu en y arrivant?

«Je ne la connaissais qu'à travers les livres, les journaux, et quelques visites. Cette fois-ci, c'était la «vraie» visite! Il m'est donc difficile de parler de décalage car je n'avais pas du pays une réelle connaissance.

En revanche, je connaissais assez bien le mode de vie occidental et je peux vous dire que le mode de vie en France est bien différent de celui des Etats-Unis ou de Grande-Bretagne.

En quoi?

La première chose qui m'a étonné est le grand nombre de petits commerçants, les boulangers, les épiceries... L'esprit de quartier, existe encore! A la différence de la Grande-Bretagne, par exemple.

On finit par se connaître. Il s'installe un rapport humain. Une chaleur que je n'attendais pas dans une grande ville. Paris, en fait, est une somme de petits villages... Et tout cela est finalement assez proche de l'esprit moyen-oriental.

Néanmoins c'est une société occidentale, et qui est en crise. La société française vous a-t-elle paru déprimée?

Les Français se posent des questions du fait des bouleversements qui touchent leur société. Ils ne sont pas seuls à vivre cela. Et puis, il y a la crise économique. Les gens perdent leurs certitudes. J'ai d'ailleurs été surpris par le nombre de mendiants. C'est une société en transition mais qui n'est pas déprimée.

Avez-vous ressenti du racisme?

Jamais. Bien sûr, il y a des racistes en France. Comme partout! Mais la société française est ouverte. Cela provient peut-être de son histoire. Paris a toujours été un centre mondial de rencontre, la société française une société cosmopolite. D'ailleurs, les activités culturelles arabes y sont plus variées que dans n'importe quelle ville arabe! Notamment grâce à l'Institut du monde arabe (IMA). «Mais, le racisme, non, je ne l'ai pas ressenti. Les scores du chef de l'extrême-droite, Jean-Marie Le Pen, sont plus liés à la crise qu'à la race. La sécurité est bien meilleure que dans d'autres pays occidentaux. J'ai vécu deux ans aux Etats-Unis, à Georgetown. Nous étions 240 étudiants, quatre ont été agressés. A Paris, il n'y a jamais eu de problème de ce type.

Qu'est-ce qui vous manque de France?

Les cafés. Ça, c'est une particularité bien française. En Grande-Bretagne, il y a les pubs mais on y boit que de la bière. Les Etats-Unis essaient de s'y mettre mais sans y arriver. Dans un café français, on peut passer une heure ou plus, à lire. J'ai aimé beaucoup et cela me manque un peu. Ce qui m'a d'ailleurs beaucoup amusé, ce sont les courses de garçons de café. C'est amusant de les voir courir, très fiers.

Ce que je regrette aussi un peu, c'est la vie culturelle de Paris. «Paris, capitale des Arts», cela a encore un sens! Il y a des cinémas, des musées... Sans compter la beauté même de la ville! S'il y avait une image que je devrais garder de la France, ce serait celle du musée d'Orsay, à Paris. J'y suis allé si souvent. Propos recueillis par Benoît Floch.

Casablanca

L'Islam sans les intégristes

Le septième sommet de l'OCI s'est tenu il y a dix jours à Casablanca. Les Etats musulmans se veulent résolument tournés vers l'avenir, préoccupés par la tragédie bosniaque et opposés aux intégristes.

LA TRAGÉDIE bosniaque, le terrorisme et l'image de l'Islam dans le monde occidental auront été au centre des interventions et des discussions des cinquante chefs de délégations présentes au septième sommet de l'Organisation de la conférence islamique (OCI).

En trois jours de réunions, tantôt publiques, tantôt à huis clos, les pays membres de l'institution ont émis leurs travaux au palais royal de Casablanca en adoptant une déclaration spéciale sur la Bosnie et une cinquantaine de résolutions.

Les membres sont conscients qu'une solution au drame bosniaque ne peut être trouvée qu'avec le concours de l'ONU (Organisation des Nations unies) et de l'OTAN (Organisation de l'Atlantique nord), donc des Occidentaux. C'est pourquoi ils ont décidé de multiplier les pressions à la fois sur le Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU et sur le «groupe de contact» (Allemagne, France, Grande-Bretagne, Russie et Etats-Unis) avec lequel le propre groupe de contact de l'OCI se retrouvera très prochainement à Genève.

Pour la première fois, le terrorisme et l'extrémisme des islamistes ont été évoqués en profondeur par les participants. Le roi du Maroc a noté, résumant le sentiment général, que les valeurs exemplaires de l'Islam ne sont pas respectées par certains groupes dont les attitudes sont contraires à la tolérance islamique.

L'OCI s'engage à une nouvelle aide importante aux pays du Sahel: Cap Vert, Sénégal, Guinée-Bissau, Niger, Mali, Tchad, Burkina-Faso, Mauritanie et Gambie. Ces pays sont regroupés depuis 1973 dans le Comité interministériel de lutte contre la sécheresse. Le coût total de ce programme s'élève à 575 millions de dollars mais seuls 75 projets d'un coût de 405 millions de dollars seront exécutés immédiatement. Une réunion des pays donateurs devrait se tenir au cours des prochains mois. L'Arabie Saoudite se serait engagée à verser cent millions de dollars et d'autres monarchies pétrolières auraient promis de verser une aide substantielle.

Les projets retenus concernent notamment la



création de points d'eau, l'hydraulique villageoise, la protection des zones silvo-pastorales, la constitution de parcs d'immunsation pour le bétail ou encore la surveillance des éco-systèmes pastoraux.

L'OCI a en revanche trébuché sur les questions de Jérusalem et de l'Iraq. Le roi Hussein a exprimé son mécontentement à ses interlocuteurs sur un projet de résolution consacré à Jérusalem. Cela contrarierait la prééminence de la Jordanie sur la direction des lieux saints jusqu'à ce que la souveraineté des Palestiniens soit reconnue dans le cadre des négociations avec Israël.

La tendance actuelle mondiale est à l'économie de marché et les pays islamiques possèdent des atouts considérables dans le cadre d'une complémentarité entre les pays membres de l'OCI. Des mesures ont été proposées: Premièrement, la formation d'un marché commun arabe. Deuxièmement, l'adoption de législations visant à préserver les investissements dans les pays de l'OCI. Troisièmement, l'adoption d'une législation garantissant la libre circulation des capitaux entre les pays de l'OCI. Enfin, la création d'organismes susceptibles de fournir des informations crédibles sur les possibilités d'investissement. ■

Sana Miakara.

Truffaut à marée haute

Un cycle rendant hommage au cinéaste se tiendra du 9 au 31 janvier au Centre culturel français. Analyse d'un «phénomène».

FRANÇOIS TRUFFAUT n'est pas le réalisateur français que l'arrangement et pressé Télérama conserve dans son inviolable panthéon des références. Il n'est pas le critique contestataire, hurlant le changement, que l'on peut lire huit années durant dans les Cahiers du cinéma. Les 400 coups n'est pas le film charnière ouvrant sur la Nouvelle vague.

Car aucune définition précise ne recouvre l'école de la Nouvelle vague.

Car Truffaut n'a critiqué que ce qu'il empruntera plus tard au cinéma passé.

Car il n'est qu'un réalisateur d'époque, une référence parmi d'autres, dans la production duquel le moins bon rend le meilleur inoubliable. C'est tout.

Pour viser ce meilleur, il nous faudrait au moins faire la différence entre Truffaut le pianiste, par exemple, et la «saga» d'Antoine Doissel.

Deux parts distinctes dans la production de Truffaut, qui n'est donc pas une suite de films, mais bien une œuvre.

Première, qui capitalise les mêmes concepts qui ont fait sa rapide réputation, est remise en cause après La peau douce. La seconde, beaucoup plus libre, compte des adaptations de livres qu'il apprécie (La Sirène du Mississippi, La Mariée était en noir...), des réalisations plus dynamiques, plus remuantes, plus audacieuses aussi, comme l'étude psychologique d'Une belle fille comme moi.

La Nouvelle vague, même s'il en est son principal représentant, ne contient pas Truffaut tout entier (comme elle ne contient ni Godard, ni Chabrol, ni Rohmer). Les étiquettes romantiques, naturalistes, sont trop réductrices. Ses films ne sont pas, à proprement parler,

des films d'auteur. Une fois convaincu qu'il ne pouvait être rangé parmi les créateurs typés, fidèles sur la distance aux principes qui font leur réputation du premier au dernier film, on peut rassembler certaines caractéristiques. La première et la plus grande sans doute: le sens autobiographique. Dans Les 400 coups, en 1959, Truffaut raconte les

malheurs d'un enfant incompris chez lui, maladroit à l'école, qui connaît des larcins, presque malgré lui, et qui finit par s'évader du centre de rééducation. Jusqu'à l'amour en 1979, où l'on retrouve le même personnage, devenu adulte, incarné par le même acteur, Jean-Pierre L  aud. Truffaut est le biographe d'Antoine Doissel. C'est à dire largement autobiographique.

Une seconde permanence dans son œuvre est le tableau sans cesse répété depuis La Peau douce, d'un milieu bourgeois, conformiste, jusqu'à l'adulte, incarné par le même acteur, Jean-Pierre L  aud. Truffaut est le biographe d'Antoine Doissel. C'est à dire largement autobiographique.

Et si Truffaut n'était finalement que Truffaut?

malheurs d'un enfant incompris chez lui, maladroit à l'école, qui connaît des larcins, presque malgré lui, et qui finit par s'évader du centre de rééducation. Jusqu'à l'amour en 1979, où l'on retrouve le même personnage, devenu adulte, incarné par le même acteur, Jean-Pierre L  aud. Truffaut est le biographe d'Antoine Doissel. C'est à dire largement autobiographique.

Les quatre films que le Centre culturel français se propose de projeter dans le cadre du cycle qui lui est consacré, pourraient être une occasion intéressante de lui ménager une critique moins unanime. Le but? Le dégrader des formules de pérorateurs du genre: «C'est un bon Truffaut...», «un très bon Truffaut...», qui p  nt de sens que pour ceux qui veulent briller, incapables de sortir du consensus des gens qui n'ont jamais eu d'avis tranch  . ■

Ludovic Poux

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THE STAR'S

COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

A beginner's guide to the War of No Winners: PCs under virus attack

By Khaldoun Al Aqqad

COMPUTER VIRUSES can basically be described, in technical terms, as 'self replicating segments of executable computer code embedded within a host program'.

These segments take the form of short instruction sequences, found within the object code of an invaded host program. While this host (virus infected program) appears to work normally, every time the host program is executed it sends a signal to the viral code that looks forward to capturing new hosts. No host is infected more than once, since this significantly leads to easy detection.

Then, there's the 'intelligent infection', which is the infection of the operating system. Since the Operating System is always resident in memory, this leads to a continuous series of infections each time there is an Operating System Call.

Where do viruses come from?

Computer hackers are undoubtedly the main source of computer viruses. Still, there are also some organizations that have political and economic aims that carry on the 'duty' of developing these viruses.

The dangers of viruses
Viruses are quite dangerous since they may destroy or

delete your data files, create bad sectors, or even totally destroy your hard disk. They stay resident in your memory causing conflicts with other programs; they simulate errors, steal CPU time and can even crash your computer.

Virus Infection Symptoms
Symptoms to look out for suggesting that you may have a virus lurking in your system include the following:
Your programs are running slower than usual; unusual disk

your computer or the signs of infection will be lost. Break all network connections, let all other people know about it, and alert your management.

The first line of defence in the war of computer viruses is protection. If you follow a good protection strategy then you can largely decrease the possibility of infection.

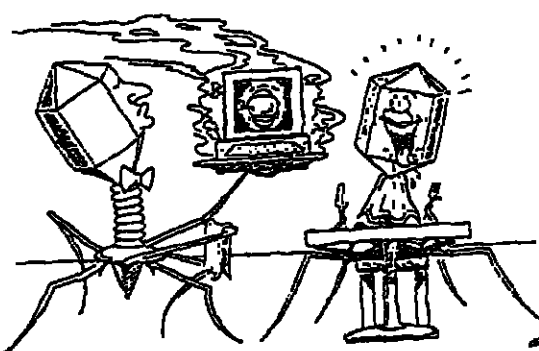
It is highly recommended to keep your removable magnetic media write protected unless you are writing on it. Utilities are available to partition your hard-disk into open and write protected sectors. Encryption utilities make unauthorized access much more difficult. Never trust any free software that is downloaded from public domain Software or received with no request by E-mail. Stay on the safe side by fully backing up your system. Run checkups before and after installing your new software and find any change occurred in any existing hidden files.

Install your new software in an isolated machine and place it in isolated directories, since most of the viruses are workable in their own directories.

Detection as defence
Detection is your second line of defence. Detection strategies are widely varied in complexity and effectiveness. The easiest way of detection

Methods of protection from viruses?
If you ever suspect a virus in your system. Don't turn off

access; loading software takes more time than before; your system, crashes repeatedly, running a program requires more space than usual; extra hard disk space suddenly becomes available without any requested deletion; there are problems with resident programs that did not happen before; your compiler is skipping some statements in your code or adding additional statements to your code; your program gives ambiguous messages or it restarts after termination.



Active Laws Instead of a Jungle Of Dongles!

By Jihad Abdullah

THE USE of hardware protection keys for computer software, namely dongles, has spread fast during the last few years. This has caused some 'practical' problems that can be really felt when you've got five or more dongles plugged into your PC's printer port.

Dongles work as an electronic 'black box,' that is attached to one of the computer's I/O ports.

When you run a program, it will check the port for the dongle or it will look for the dongle's serial number. If missing, the program will not run.

Unfortunately, the increased use of dongles has encouraged some pirates to create dongle-breaking programs. These can be added to the dongle-protected software to basically fool your PC into believing that the dongle is actually connected, by giving it the required information.

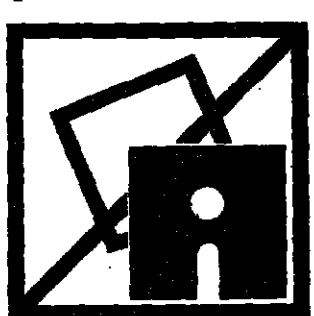
Although this introduces new dangers to software protection techniques, it is actually a challenging point for software developers.

It should encourage developers to use more powerful anti-piracy tools, using software instrumentation which could make things more and more difficult for pirates: rather than sticking to puzzling procedures involving hardware protection.

One of the interesting options is the production of software with a limited number of copy times. After a certain

allowed number of copies, the software may erase itself or simply refuse to work again.

In such cases, warranty procedures should guarantee that the user will be compensated for the damage done to files as a result of this 'expiry' of the original copy; whether the program is hardware or software



THINKING OF COPYING?
THINK AGAIN

protected.

Moving onto the legalities regarding copyrights which are supposed to stop software piracy altogether; we, in Jordan, already have the Copyright Law no 22 passed in 1992. This replaced the Turkish law which has been in effect since 1910.

The new law, however, is not being enforced properly and its implementation remains weak despite all efforts made by owners of intellectual property, including software devel-

opers, to encourage the Government to activate it.

Our enforcing of that law is, in fact, one of the prerequisites to joining the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). With Jordan having already applied to join GATT, the importance of enforcing copyright laws increases.

However, as we recognize the rights of developers to protect their software programs against piracy, we should note that their rights should not compromise users' rights to easy-to-install software.

Users are an essentially important part of the equation and developers should convince them that they will lose more when using illegal copies, by highlighting the benefits of using original software.

The proper documentation and packaging offered with original software is certainly an incentive. A more convincing step would be to offer computer users more reasonable pricing of software packages.

This will most definitely help increase the number of the 'original copy' software-using audience by creating an opportunity for users with a limited budget to obtain original software, rather than having to look for 'cheap' copies.

What do software publishing companies and developers think of that?

Jihad Abdullah is a staff editor at BYTE Middle East magazine.

INTERFACE

Processors 94: What happened

TOWARDS THE end of every year, it's interesting to see how microprocessors which offered promising starts at the beginning of the year actually turned out. Mainly, the industry has been focused on two chips: The Intel Pentium and the PowerPC from Motorola.

At the start of the year, 60MHz and 66MHz Pentium machines were available. Now, we've also got 90MHz systems at such lower prices than the beginning of the year.

However, tragedy struck Intel in November with the so-called 'Pentium Scandal'. If you haven't heard of it (Where have you been), the short version of the story is that the new industry-standard processor from Intel has been found to be faulty. The Floating Point Unit (FPU) was discovered to be unable to handle certain calculations involving particular numbers. Once that news was out, all hell broke loose. People have been reported to be moving away from the Pentium.

A particular PC dealer I talked to, expressed his willingness to ask all his Pentium customers to bring in their systems for exchanging their faulty processors with new 'fixed' ones. If this thing catches on, or even proves to be necessary, we may see a massive move of CPU switching in 1995. Personally, I don't think it's quite necessary. With the possibilities of the Pentium's fault appearing being one in millions, you need not feel that you've got a dangerous machine sitting at your desk. Getting back to the good-old, tried and tested 486, the good news was that it continued to sink in price.

Full multimedia 486DX2 machines, complete with CD-ROM and sound card, from well-known computer suppliers have been available to Jordanian users for under JD1,500 in the last few months. Now that's progress, which may help introduce true 'edutainment' into Jordanian homes. Still, stay on a lookout in 1995 as DX2 prices come tumbling down even more. If you've been in this market for some time, you probably have a pretty good idea of the way things will go in '95. If the RISC-based PowerPC takes off, Intel is bound to start some sort of price cuts again at Intel. The best deals you can get nowadays for 66MHz Pentium systems will be at around JD1,750. As far as computer prices are concerned, the only way is down.

Speaking of the PowerPC, last year was the start of the real PowerPC revolution we've all been talking about since 1991, but never saw. Apple's impressive PowerMacintosh machines arrived in the first quarter of the year and have been doing well ever since. According to Apple, they can't fill orders.

The PowerPC alliance comprises of Apple, IBM and Motorola. According to IBM, they've sold over 1 million PowerPC processors throughout the year. So, where are the machines? Coming along. As it appears, major manufacturers like Acer and Dell are supposed to introduce their PowerPC machines in '95. But what the PowerPC needs is a proper operating system on which can effectively run DOS and Windows software. Until then, my assumption is that Intel will rule.

For now, you can get a taste of PowerPC technology for just under JD1,800 with the Power Macintosh 6100.

Next week we'll be giving you a special look back at 1994, complete with all the great things that happened, and the not so good events that countered computer users throughout the year. For now, Happy New Year and we at The Star's Workstation wish you, our dear readers, an interactively entertaining and productive computing year in 1995. ■

Discovering history in the Holy Land

By William Davis

THERE IS a considerable difference between the Holy Land of one's imagination and the reality.

Like most first-time visitors, I thought I knew what to expect. I was wrong.

Take one prominent example. We tend to think of the birthplace of Jesus as a thatched stable with wooden troughs for oats and hay, and a pile of fodder on which the Wise Men knelt to adore the new-born child. A charming image, to be sure, but if you go to Bethlehem you will see one which is much more plausible. Bethlehem still has a number of old one-room houses built over caves in the limestone rock. These caves, in which the animals sleep, are exactly the same as the one which was recognized as the birthplace of Jesus two centuries before Rome became a Christian state.

Constantine the Great constructed a church on the site in AD 325. Beneath the high altar is the small cave of the Nativity, lit by silver lamps, and in the floor there is a star. Round it a Latin inscription says: "Here Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary."

Many famous artists have painted their own vision of biblical scenes. Titian set the Last Supper in a palace; in fact, it is more likely to have been a simple Eastern meal in humble surroundings.

No-one knows for sure whether the 'official sites' associated with Jesus are authentic, they were chosen by the mother of the first Christian emperor on the basis of established tradition, advice from bishops, and revelations

in her dreams. The Via Dolorosa may or may not have been the road on which He carried the cross; the Church of the Holy Sepulchre may or may not be the true site of the crucifixion and the burial place.

It is a little disconcerting to find that two places are actually pointed out which are said to have been the tomb of Jesus, and to be told that the Ecce Homo Arch, named for Pilate's words of scorn: "behold the Man!" did not even exist in his time. The cross commercialism, too, is off-putting.

The original Church of the Holy Sepulchre, also built by Constantine, was twice the size of the one we see today. It was destroyed by the Persians three centuries later. Its replacement was the victim of an earthquake in AD 746. The present church was built by the Crusaders.

Here, the tomb is a tiny cell lined with marble. Only two, or at the most three, people can enter at one time. On the right hand is a cracked slab of white marble, three feet high.

One tends to take comfort in generalizations like "Jesus walked these hills" and "Jesus certainly knew this landscape." If He did not carry the cross on the Via Dolorosa, He probably followed a path very much like it. What really matters, one concludes, is that the sites have been accepted and made holy by centuries of devotion.

The Gospels deal with only a brief period in His life, how He spent the greater part of it will always be a mystery. But the Holy Land is so small that He must surely have known it from end to end.

Phrases like Holy Land and Holy City are biblical expressions and trying to locate places mentioned in the Old and New Testaments is often complicated by changes in their names. But Jerusalem was, of course, famous long before Jesus was born.

When He first saw it (at the age of 12, we're told) the city had a population of nearly a quarter of a million, which swelled to a million during festival times. Joseph and Mary lost track of Him but finally found Him inside the Temple.

There are ruins of two other castles of Petra which has since become Jordan's top tourist attraction. Petra is a marvel: a fortress city literally carved out of the craggy rocks in an almost inaccessible area. Some 30,000 people lived here at the time of Christ.

absorbed in a dialogue with Pharisee rabbis.

Christians are apt to forget that Jerusalem has some of the most important historical and religious shrines of two other great faiths: Judaism and Islam.

King David made it his capital around 1000 BC and brought to Jerusalem the Ark of the Covenant—reported to be the mobile shrine which the Jews made during 40 years of wandering—to hold the tablets of law which God gave to Moses. The great temple built by Herod was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70; all that remained was the Western

Wall, popularly known today as the Wailing Wall and Judaism's most sacred site.

For Muslims, the Dome of the Rock is holy because it is from here that Mohammed is said to have ascended to heaven. It is the most beautiful monument in all of Islam.

Many visitors make day trips to Bethlehem, Herodian, the Dead Sea, and Masada—none of which is more than an hour and a half way. Masada is one of the most impressive sights in Israel, renowned as the scene of heroic Jewish

another claim which is widely disputed.

Jordan has many other places which are mentioned in the bible, including Machaerus (now Mukawir) where Salome danced for Herod and John the Baptist lost his head.

There also two splendid Crusader castles, of Kerak and Shobak. The Crusades have always seemed a romantic enterprise, but they involved great hardship and brutality. The combined forces of French and German knights marched into Jerusalem in 1097 and, although defeated by Saladin 90 years later, did not finally leave the Holy Land until 1291.

During the long period, they built impressive castles to protect their conquests. Walking around Kerak in late afternoon, I resolved to read more about this remarkable part of medieval history. How strange it must have been to live here, far from home, besieged by hostile forces, no doubt, wondering why on earth one had come and whether one would ever see one's own country again.

There are ruins of two other castles of Petra which has since become Jordan's top tourist attraction. Petra is a marvel: a fortress city literally carved out of the craggy rocks in an almost inaccessible area. Some 30,000 people lived here at the time of Christ. They controlled the all-important caravan routes which carried trade in two directions, but the routes shifted Petra lost its wealth and was forgotten until the Swiss explorer Johann Burckhardt discovered it by chance in 1812.

Jordan has other archaeological treasures, like the Roman



city of Jerash, which flourished in the centuries immediately preceding and following the Christian era. Amman (once called Philadelphia) is a comfortable base for excursions. Many visitors try to fit in a trip to Jerusalem and Syria, as I did.

Damascus, the capital of Syria, had a Christian community and it was on his way to persecute this community that Saul of Tarsus underwent the extraordinary experience that converted him from an enemy to a saint called Paul.

I hired a taxi to take me to Maalula, a picturesque village some 56 kilometers away where the local people still speak Aramaic, the language of Jesus. It was once the language spoken by the whole of Syria and Palestine now, by a quirk of history, only the inhabitants of Maalula and two nearby villages still use it.

Syria has another splendid Crusader castle, the Karak des Chevaliers—fortress of the knights. It also has the stunning oasis city of Palmyra, which rises like a mirage from the

barren waste some 150 miles from Damascus. It was a long drive, but all my qualms were forgotten the moment I got my first glimpse of Petra's great rival and successor. There it stood, silent and golden in the evening light, looking like a vast abandoned Roman building site, with numerous remains of temples, arches, colonnades, baths, and tombs. How magnificent it must have been in its days of glory!

Perhaps the most extraordinary of Syria's early Christians was St Simeon, who became famous throughout Europe in the fifth century because he took up residence on top of a pillar. He spent the last 30 years of his life there, 50 feet high, with only a railing and an iron collar around his neck, fastened by a chain, to prevent him from plunging to his death.

It was a prodigy of religious fervor that maintained him for so long in the face of icy mountain winds and a pitiless summer sun. Meager rations were carried up to him by ladder and rope by his fellow

monks. Twice a week he celebrated Mass up there. Every day he preached to the crowd of pilgrims who gathered at the base of his column from all over Europe, including Britain. They would shout up their questions and he would answer in a loud voice.

St Simeon (who surely deserves to be the patron saint of columnists) was one of the most renowned holy men of a holy time. He inspired many imitators and when he died, in AD 459, one of the largest and finest churches in the East was built here in his memory. A large monastery was added for the many clergy and a town with hostels, sprang up on the slopes of the hill to accommodate the visitors. All this is now in ruins, but the ruins are ravishing.

The Holy Land has endured what seems like an eternity of conflict. One very much hopes that it has now entered a new era of peace, it certainly seems worth praying for. ■

High Life